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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RENZI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 3, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK RENZI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1879. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 128, Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to the Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States—

Major General Lewis E. Curtis III
USAF (Retired).

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for 5 minutes.

SALUTE TO JOSE MELENDEZ-PEREZ

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of my constituents, a man whose diligence in his job as a border agent may well have saved the lives of each and every one of us here in Congress.

Jose Melendez-Perez works at Orlando International Airport, the same airport that I fly in and out of every week, and in August of 2001, he stopped a man named al-Qahtani from entering the United States. As Mr. Melendez-Perez just told the 9/11 panel, al-Qahtani's story about why he was coming to America from Saudi Arabia just had too many holes in it.

In spite of bone-chilling stares and intimidating finger pointing, Mr. Melendez-Perez refused to back down. The FBI and the CIA now believe that al-Qahtani was supposed to be the 20th hijacker during the attacks of 9/11. He should have been on that plane headed towards Washington that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. But thanks to Jose Melendez-Perez of Orlando, he was not.

Every time he has been asked about his role in stopping the 20th hijacker, Mr. Melendez-Perez always says, "I was just doing my job." Well, Mr. Melendez-Perez, I say to you, "Job well done."

THE GREAT PRETENDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush took office, he inherited the longest peacetime expansion of the American economy in history. He

inherited 4 consecutive years of budget surpluses, the first time that had happened in over 80 years. And he inherited a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

In March of 2001, President Bush boldly promised the American people, and I quote, "We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative." That is what the President said.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it should now be clear to the American people that the originator of the term "fuzzy math" has become its foremost practitioner. Any doubt about that was erased yesterday with the submission of the President's fiscal 2005 budget, a budget that threatens to plunge us into an economic abyss for years to come.

The President's failed economic policies, adopted by this House and Senate, are the equivalent of fiscal child abuse because they would force our children to pay our bills for decades to come and force our grandchildren to pay our bills for decades to come. His budget projects a record deficit this year. Fiscal conservatives hear me: \$521 billion in deficits this year, \$5 trillion, this on the heels of last year's deficits of \$375 billion. And next year the administration projects a deficit of \$364 billion.

But even that figure is not accurate, and the President ought to know it and, in my opinion, does know it. It fails to include the cost of additional military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget revealed yesterday that the administration may ask for another \$50 billion for our war efforts. It failed to provide a long-term solution for the working class time bomb, the alternative minimum tax, and it failed to include the cost of initiatives such as the administration's ill-conceived Social Security privatization plan.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The fact is the President has no plan to dig our Nation out of the fiscal mess that his policies and the policies of this Congress have created. He pretends that he will halve the deficit by 2009, but almost all the deficit reduction in his budget is attributable to growth in the Social Security Trust Fund. I ask my Republican colleagues: Where have you hidden the Social Security lockbox?

Furthermore, the President pretends that reining in nondefense discretionary spending will return the budget to balance. The No Child Left Behind Act is still underfunded by \$9 billion plus. The President would slash funding for the environment and from construction on our Nation's highways. His budget even cuts funding for veterans medical care and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

My good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), has recognized the fallacy of trying to balance the budget by cutting discretionary spending. Yesterday, Chairman YOUNG said, and I quote, "No one should expect significant deficit reduction as a result of austere nondefense discretionary spending limits. The numbers simply do not add up. Non-defense discretionary represents less than 20 percent, some 18 percent of the Federal budget, and freezing this spending reduces the deficit by a marginal amount."

In fact, if we reduced and eliminated all of discretionary funding, all funding for this Congress, all funding for the executive department, all funding for NIH, all funding for CDC, all funding for CIA, all funding for FBI, and all funding for all other nondefense discretionary spending, we would not balance the budget.

But never fear, while the President proposes draconian and unrealistic spending cuts, he continues to demand that the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 be made permanent at a cost of \$1 trillion over 10 years. Who is going to pay that? Our children and our grandchildren. Because this generation refuses to pay for what it is buying.

And here is the kicker: The President refuses to offer any explanation of how he plans to pay for them. None. Zero. Nada. Even some of our Republican friends are starting to flinch at this administration's fiscal recklessness. Hopefully, they will vote that way as well, it will not be just rhetorical. And some of them, by the way, do vote that way, and I respect them for that.

On Friday, and the majority leader is sitting here on the floor pretending to ignore my compelling remarks, on Friday, former majority leader Dick Armey was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as stating, and this is Dick Armey, the majority leader immediately preceding our present majority leader, and he said, "I'm sitting here and I'm upset about the deficit and I'm upset about spending. There's no way I can pin that on the Democrats. Repub-

licans own the town now." That was Dick Armey, former Republican majority leader.

I implore every one of my colleagues to reject the President's budget out of hand and to face the fiscal train wreck bearing down on the American people with honesty and candor. Some do. Most do not. When it comes to masquerading as a fiscal conservative, the President deserves an academy award.

We do not have the luxury of pretending, my colleagues, any longer that his failed policies are working. Let us hope that all of us have the intellectual honesty and the courage to face this issue and come together. It will be tough. It will be wrenching in many respects. But it will be the right thing to do for our country. It will be the right thing to do for our children. It will be the right thing to do for America.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, we are heading into the legislative year and we are heading into a campaign year, as we just heard. Campaign rhetoric sometimes overshadows reality and truth. But the Republican majority will be guided by three principal themes this year: Ensuring our security, growing the economy, and defending the family. Everything we do this year in this House will get our Nation closer to one of those goals.

First, we will continue to fund the ongoing war on terror and provide our military service men and women with the tools, training, and resources that they need to protect all of us. We will continue to export democracy and freedom to every corner of the globe.

Second, we will continue our successful work here at home in growing the economy, creating jobs for the American people, and bringing fiscal responsibility to the government. We will make sure that the \$1,000 child tax credit remains the law of the land, something the Democrats opposed. We will not let the marriage tax penalty come back, as it is scheduled to do at the end of this year, something the Democrats want to see the return of. We will fight to keep the 10 percent tax bracket where it is, so that working families can continue to enjoy more fruits of their labors, something that the Democrats do not want to see happen.

Members, it boggles my mind to notice that the Democrats have all of a sudden become deficit hawks. It is amazing to me. In the 40 years that the Democrats controlled this House, they never balanced the budget once. Not once. Deficits did not matter. Tax increases mattered. More spending mattered. They fought every tax relief

bill every President brought before them. They wanted to spend more money. Not once did they balance the budget.

It took less than 4 years for a Republican majority in this House to get to a balanced budget, because we brought fiscal sanity to this House and to this government. So when they talk about the President's budget, what they are screaming about is they want more spending, and the President says no. What they are screaming about is they want to raise taxes, and the President says no. That is what they are screaming about.

And what would happen if they raised taxes on American families? They would kill the growth that has come because we gave tax relief. And if we kill the growth, revenues to the government go down. Then they will want to raise taxes some more; take more money to pay. We just heard the minority whip talk about paying this generation's debt. What he is talking about is raising taxes so that they can spend more. Republicans are interested in growing the economy, the Democrats are interested in growing the government.

Third, this House will protect American families as they struggle to do their all-important work raising their children, caring for their elders, and building their communities. We will pass the Laci and Conner law to protect unborn victims of violence.

We will work with the Senate to finish the reauthorization of the welfare system, to help families get off welfare and into stable and well-paying jobs.

We will make quality and affordable health care more accessible to all Americans regardless of their income level.

And, finally, we will protect the Medicare legislation passed last year from attempts to undermine the promise of guaranteed prescription drug coverage the Congress has made to our seniors.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, we are heading into this campaign year with a close election facing us in November. But as contentious as our debates probably will be, although we may have different agendas, our goals of peace and prosperity for the Nation are the same; and further remember that this America is best served when our differences bring out the best in ourselves, not the worst in each other.

MEDICARE BILL LEAVES AMERICA'S ELDERLY OUT IN THE COLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday felt like Groundhog Day.

America woke up, got more bad fiscal news from the Bush administration, and predicted years and years of growing Federal budget deficits.

We learned this weekend that the \$400 billion Bush Medicare plan passed and signed in December was, in fact, going to cost \$539 billion. Americans were surprised to learn that most of that first extra \$139 billion, most of the first \$100 billion will go straight into the pockets of the drug companies, the group that helped to write the prescription drug bill in the Oval Office. The other \$39 billion is going to shore up the taxpayer-financed payoffs to encourage insurance company HMOs to provide Medicare coverage.

Well, that bad news was not much of a surprise for those of us who work regularly with the White House. President Bush, in the State of the Union, said the new Medicare measure kept a basic commitment to our seniors. The President in that bill may have fulfilled a commitment or two, but it was not to the Nation's elderly. Here are some of the key details the President forgot to tell us about: The estimated cost of the Medicare prescription drug bill over 10 years was \$400 billion; the estimated increase in drug industry profits from the Medicare drug bill are \$139 billion. The additional government payments to the insurance industry to participate in Medicare were originally tagged at \$14 billion. There are 100 Members of the United States Senate, 435 Members of the United States House of Representatives. There are 675 Washington lobbyists working for the drug industry, and we see the influence they have on President Bush and my Republican friends on the other side of the aisle when we look at that bill.

The drug industry gave to Republicans in 2002, \$21.7 million in political contributions. The average elderly American's drug cost is \$2,400. The portion of that average American's drug cost covered by the new Medicare drug benefit is only 45 percent. The average profit margin of Fortune 500 firms in 2002 was 3 percent. The average profit margin of the top 10 drug companies before the Medicare bill was 17 percent. The increase in elderly Americans' Social Security checks last year, 2.6 percent. The average price increase in the 50 prescription drugs elderly Americans used most in 2002 was 6 percent.

Retirees with health insurance before Medicare was signed into law, 50 percent of retirees in this country had health insurance before Medicare was signed into law. Today about 97 percent of retirees in the United States have health insurance under Medicare. Medicare administrative costs are only 2 percent; average administrative costs for insurance company HMOs are 15 percent. The compensation package, including stock options for one chief executive officer of a Medicare HMO in 2002 was \$529 million, even though in the last 4 years 2.5 million of America's seniors were dropped from HMO coverage. The insurance industry gave

\$25.9 million to House and Senate Republicans supporting President Bush last year.

Most telling, on March 1 the bill that President Bush signed, only 3 months after he signed it. The insurance companies, insurance HMOs in this country, will receive hundreds of millions of dollars from the U.S. Government come March 1. But the bill that President Bush signed to take care of America's elderly and their prescription drug coverage does not go into effect for 2 years. The insurance companies get their money 3 months after President Bush signed the bill, America's elderly do not get their drug coverage until 25 months after President Bush signed the bill.

It is clear that the President talked about his basic commitment to America's seniors when in fact the basic commitment of the Medicare prescription drug bill was to America's drug industry and America's insurance industry. Those are the groups that will do well under the prescription drug bill. America's elderly, by President Bush, will again be left out in the cold.

DAVID KAY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to sort of elaborate on David Kay's comments dealing with weapons of mass destruction. He is a chief weapons of mass destruction hunter for the United States and he resigned recently, but he made some very interesting statements regarding Iraq's pursuit of the WMD and the possible deception of Iraqi scientists against Saddam Hussein regarding weapons programs. I think it is important to look at the totality of what David Kay said and not just what some of the political pundits have pulled out of his speech. He said that the CIA and other intelligence agencies did not realize that Iraq scientists had presented "ambitious but fanciful weapons programs to Saddam Hussein," and had them use the money that they were going to use for these things for other purposes.

At present, we have not found a huge stockpile of WMD. The search continues. However, we know a few facts. According to a recent New York Times story, Dr. Kay also reported "Iraq attempted to revise its efforts to develop nuclear weapons in 2000 and 2001, but never got as far towards making a bomb as Iran and Libya did." He also said "Baghdad was actively working to produce a biological weapon, using the poison ricin until the American invasion last March." We have all become familiar with this toxin given recent events in the news because of what happened at the Senate office building yesterday.

Many of this administration's detractors have begun using Kay's state-

ments to bolster their particular points of view regarding weapons of mass destruction and Iraq. But let us not forget that the Clinton administration also declared Iraq had WMD and was actively pursuing those types of programs. Dr. Kay's information then supports the assertion of the Clinton administration that Saddam Hussein was pursuing weapons of mass destruction programs.

Saddam Hussein made it clear that he wanted to see the State of Israel and the United States destroyed. He saw himself as a lion standing up to the powerful United States. Although he could not directly attack the United States, it is not unreasonable to conclude that he would transfer weapons of mass destruction, the technology, the weapons themselves and items to a terrorist organization, or to any other rogue nation, to use in a direct attack on our soil; and that is why the President's proposal to look at all of the intelligence activities dealing with weapons of mass destruction, not just in Iraq, but also in other rogue nations, is very important and he is to be commended.

Dr. Kay said the CIA and other agencies failed to recognize that Iraq had all but abandoned its efforts to produce large quantities of chemical or biological weapons after the first Persian Gulf War in 1991. He also stated that contrary to certain allegations, he was convinced that the analysts were not pressed by the Bush administration to make certain their prewar intelligence reports conformed to a White House agenda on Iraq.

The allegations that our intelligence agencies failed to detect the supposed deception within the Iraqi Government and its weapons programs goes to the heart of our problem that many of our colleagues have talked about over the years regarding our intelligence ability. We are far too short of human intelligence, the exact kind of intelligence that can provide what is going on in the minds of our adversaries. CIA does not have people on the inside, to the best of our knowledge. Satellite coverage is great, electronic signals and intercepts are vital, but without human assets on the ground, these intelligence items can project an incomplete picture. They cannot tell what the officials are thinking and what the mood is on the street, or alert analysts to the possibility of deceptive tactics within a particular government.

As a Nation, we must continuously learn from our success and failures. I support President Bush's national security policy and his decision to seek a separate intelligence inquiry. Our credibility is vital if we are to bring more Nations into this fight against terrorism, but we must look at David Kay's statements in their totality.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Bush for seeking this commission.

MARCUS DIXON DOES NOT BELONG IN PRISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today when regrettably when almost half of high school students report having had sexual intercourse, I want Members to consider the following: How would a court likely react when an 18-year-old star high school athlete, a student from a very disadvantaged background, manages a 3.9 average, 1200 on his SATs, full scholarship from Vanderbilt, is accused by a female acquaintance of rape after having sex with a girl less than 3 years younger. Now color the boy black and the girl white, and Members may not be surprised that Marcus Dixon received 10 years for this teen sex violation.

To the credit of the State of Georgia, the State amended its law almost 10 years ago to deal with sex between teens and made statutory rape a misdemeanor. The prosecutor, however, wanted a conviction very badly here because he piled on six different charges, most of them involving forcible rape, and an additional charge of aggravated child molestation which is reserved for very heinous crimes.

The jury had to contend with two very different versions. He said that she suggested please, let us not go to my house, my father is a racist and he has beaten me for less. She said she was a virgin and he raped her on a table. The jury apparently believed this was one more example of consensual teen sex by virtue of the fact that they convicted only for the misdemeanor rape charge. However, they left the aggregated child molestation charge because of testimony that she was a virgin, therefore bled, therefore had been injured; and he, therefore, was guilty of child molestation causing injury. For that injury, literally millions of teenage boys would be in jail as I speak.

That is where Marcus Dixon is, but many on the jury are dumbfounded because they believed that Marcus would walk out of court with a misdemeanor statutory rape conviction with the white couple who adopted him from his crack-addicted mother. The case is on appeal.

Male black, female white, harsh sentence, sound familiar? Consider if the girl had been black and the boy white, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence? Suppose both had been of the same race, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence?

The villain here is not only an overzealous prosecutor who treats teen sex as a sexual predator case and disregards Marcus' achievement in overcoming the kind of severe deprivation most of us have never had.

The villain also is mandatory minimums. For minor drug offenses, we

have put a generation of young black men in jail and left the black community with 70 percent of its children with no fathers and destroyed the black family. Let us be clear: We must do much more to teach our children to abstain from sex, but it is also time to teach prosecutors fairness and equal application of the law and to teach ourselves the injustice of mandatory minimums.

□ 1300

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY FENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's security fence. Next month the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague is scheduled to hold hearings on the international legality of Israel's security fence and it is my hope that the court will rule Israel's security fence a necessary measure to protect their people from the people who believe that their way to salvation is by killing Jewish women and children.

The construction of the temporary and defensive barrier is a legitimate means of protection and the lawfulness or appropriateness of this measure is not the issue. At issue is simply the question of whether complex and contentious issues can and should be placed before the International Court of Justice. The United Nations should not be imposing their politics on the sovereign nation of Israel.

The ICJ has been acting in an anti-Semitic, anti-capitalistic and anti-self-defensive manner. The court does not mention the fact that Israel is building the security fence to protect Israelis from over 20,000 attacks and that they have the right of self-defense and the attacks are the result of the Palestinian leadership's failure to take measures to prevent terrorism. Furthermore, the Palestinian government glorifies homicide bombers as martyrs and Yasser Arafat, the agent of terror, is still calling the shots and is a clear obstacle to President Bush's road map to peace.

Congress must send a powerful and clear signal to the U.N. and to the Palestinian Authority that the United States will not allow either to compromise the freedom and safety of the Jewish people.

U.S. FUNDING CUTS MEAN GREAT-ER HUNGER, ILLITERACY AND POVERTY FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized

during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President released his fiscal year 2005 budget proposal. Over the next few days there will be many speeches and analyses of his funding proposals. I would like to describe how previous budget cuts have affected just one program that both reduces hunger among children around the world and gets these kids into school. The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program began in 2001 with a \$300 million pilot program. Using American surplus commodities, organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children and Mercy Corps and the U.N. World Food Program carried out school feeding programs in over 40 countries. Seven million children received at least one nutritious meal every day in a school setting through this program.

Last year, USDA evaluated these programs and found them to be very effective in reducing hunger and dropout rates among many of the world's most vulnerable children. Enrollment, attendance and academic performance increased, especially among girls. In short, providing food for education gave poor children, including girls, a new future. Unfortunately, since 2002, when Congress made this initiative permanent, McGovern-Dole has suffered significant funding cuts. In fiscal year 2003, President Bush only asked for and received \$100 million. And now in fiscal year 2004, the program will receive only \$50 million.

What does it mean for a program like McGovern-Dole to go from \$300 million to \$100 million? It means literally that food was taken away from nearly 5 million hungry children and many of their families were forced to take them out of school. In Nicaragua, 339,000 preschool and primary school children benefiting from McGovern-Dole were cut off from this food source. In El Salvador, another 45,000 children stopped receiving food at school. In Honduras, anemia among children benefiting from McGovern-Dole was reduced by 50 percent. Sadly, 167,000 of those children have now been cut off from the program. In Peru, 70,000 children living in areas of high chronic malnutrition no longer receive meals or snacks in school. In Colombia, where we routinely send hundreds of millions of dollars each year in military and security aid, we ended McGovern-Dole funding, forcing USAID to pick up the costs and stopping a planned expansion of the program to 165,000 more children.

In 2003, I visited one of the McGovern-Dole programs in Colombia. I was told by mothers, fathers, grandmothers and community leaders how the school and the meals were the one stable reality in these children's uncertain lives, and often the only food these children receive. And I was told time and again how these kids often leave home and join one of the guerilla or paramilitary groups simply because

these groups can provide them a daily meal.

So, thanks to our funding cuts, we are robbing money from USAID development programs to pick up the costs originally covered under McGovern-Dole. Does this make sense to anyone? School feeding programs in Chad and Kenya were also especially hard hit by the McGovern-Dole cutbacks, and 125,000 children in Congo and 35,000 in Eritrea also lost their funding. In Vietnam, the McGovern-Dole program administered by Land O'Lakes that provided meals to over 700,000 children was eliminated. A similar program in Bangladesh reaching 350,000 children has just run out of funds. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on.

Eliminating these programs also means that food produced by our hard-working farmers no longer finds its way to hungry school children around the world. Mr. Speaker, the McGovern-Dole program deserves to have its funding restored, not just because these programs work, not just because they help our farmers, not just because they reduce hunger among the world's most desperate children, not just because they get poor families to send and keep their children in school but because these programs, I believe, are central to our struggle to defeat terrorism.

For fiscal year 2005, President Bush has proposed \$75 million for McGovern-Dole, a modest increase from last year's devastating cutback to \$50 million. I am glad to see the number going back up, but it is simply not enough. I would call upon my colleagues and the Bush administration to find a way to bring the funding levels for McGovern-Dole back to \$300 million.

IN MEMORY OF CHRIS DUFFY, INDIANA BROADCASTING LEGEND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this week the State of Indiana said farewell to a memorable Hoosier and a dear friend, Chris Duffy, a man whose impact on Indiana broadcasting in the 20th century can scarcely be overstated but whose impact on the lives of thousands of Hoosiers, myself included, was greater still.

Chris Duffy was born in 1936 to George Christopher Duffy, who was himself a legendary band leader back in the days when traveling band leaders were the equivalent of rock stars today. Chris was born to a promoter and he was himself a born promoter. He came by it honestly.

Long before arriving in Indianapolis where he would run or build three out of the five television stations in that city, Chris Duffy cut his teeth on the first successfully syndicated daytime television show in history, the Mike Douglas Show. Young Chris Duffy was a producer for the Mike Douglas Show

and his energy and comic timing led not only to the show's success off the air but resulted in Mike Douglas actually routinely pulling a young Chris Duffy on-stage and turning him and his antics into a regular that contributed to that show and still contributes to quality daytime television today.

From the time Chris Duffy moved to Indianapolis in 1975 to his retirement a few years back, he was not so much a business leader as a force of nature. He transformed Channel 13 into an NBC affiliate and turned it into one of the premier local news stations in America. He built Channel 59 Television with several local leaders and then went on to build another independent UPN station. During a time when local broadcasting was thought a thing of the past, Chris Duffy made an investment in high school athletics as the leader of WNDY Television like no other.

His accomplishments, though, in people far outweigh his Indiana Broadcasting Hall of Fame career. Chris Duffy was all about his people. Whether it was recognizing that a young FM radio man named Tom Cochran who could someday reach the highest levels of recognition in local news or even recognizing that a young political has-been could achieve success in talk radio and someday in politics, Chris Duffy loved to bring out people's potential. He did it with toughness, straight talk and a heart that made you want to be better, better even than you ever thought you could be.

Chris Duffy was a devoted American. At the time of his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve, he put in more than 20 years of distinguished service for his country in uniform and his courage was not just in uniform. While leading the NBC affiliate in Indianapolis in the early eighties, he broadcast a documentary of the Ku Klux Klan that drew death threats before it aired but Chris went ahead undeterred. Chris Duffy believed in America and in the highest ideals of the American people.

And Chris Duffy was about family. His 41-year marriage to Bobbi and his total devotion to Maureen, Karen, Susan and Chris pervaded everything he did. It was impossible to talk to Chris for any length of time and not eventually hear about Bobbi's opinion or some progress in his children's careers.

I last saw Chris Duffy over breakfast this last December. In his usual style he put the bad news up-front. He told me he had cancer and that it did not look good. But he also told me, MIKE, I'm not the least bit worried, and he reflected on his life, his family and his profound faith in God. He thought he had more time. When the Lord called him home last week, like so many other lives that he touched, I felt sorrow in my heart at the loss of a friend but not at the loss of a life. Chris Duffy lived a life and then some. Chris Duffy died, as he told me, rich in family, friends and accomplishments that any

10 men would envy. I have no complaints, he said, I'm not mad at God or anything like that, and he meant it.

Chris Duffy will be missed. He was for so many of us, as his father must have been before him, the leader of the band who believed that behind every instrument was a performer who still does not know how good he could really be. Thank you, Chris, and God bless you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, Creator of the heavens and earth, be attentive to the prayers of the Members of the House of Representatives today.

By Your Provident Care answer the needs of this Nation, that we may enjoy prosperity and peace. Shed light upon the conscience of all, that Your holy will may be accomplished in and through Your people.

Inspire those who serve in leadership positions of government, religion, business, and in families, that the least in our midst be protected and the common good of all may be sought and brought to fruition, both now in our day and always. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FEENEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE ON OMNIBUS BILL MEANS VICTORY FOR AMISH COMMUNITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the President signed the omnibus bill into law. H.R. 1943, the Amish Labor bill, a bill I have pushed since I came to this body, was part of that package.

The bill keeps in place common sense safety rules, but allows Amish teenagers to learn a trade after they complete their formal schooling, which is equivalent to the eighth grade, in an apprenticeship program. This is the way they learn to make a living.

After years of trying to win this protection for the Amish community to preserve their way of life, we have finally done it. The President's signature on this bill is a victory for the Amish, for religious liberty, and for diversity in America.

Centuries ago, these people came to America to escape persecution, to worship and live freely, and their life and customs have remained mostly intact since they arrived. They do not ask for Social Security or unemployment or anything from the government; they just want to be left alone to raise their children and make a living. Over the years we have stood up for groups like the Amish when the law has threatened their well-being and survival.

I applaud the Senate for approving the bill, I thank the President for signing it into law, and I thank all of my colleagues who helped us get this into law.

NEW BILL TRANSFORMS SYSTEM OF TAXATION

(Mr. FATTAH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I give notice to the House today that I have offered a piece of legislation that would have the Department of the Treasury analyze a proposal to transform our system of taxation and to move us away from this very complicated, burdensome form of taxation that now raises the revenues necessary for governmental purposes, to a transaction fee in which we would utilize the great power of our economy to tap into economic resources in a way in which we could transform our country, respond to the needs of all of our people in a responsible way, but to do it without the necessity to pry into the private lives of our citizens or to audit their financial behavior.

This proposal as we present it would have the Treasury prepare a study of this idea. It is offered after a great deal of research and effort. We hope that it will find in the workings of the House the kind of urgency that should be there, given our failure to respond to this problem in any real way for a very, very long time. It is the 90th birthday of the income tax in our country. It started at 2 pages, it is now tens of thousands of pages. Today we can begin not just to curse the darkness but, as has been said, light a candle.

HONORING THE HANNA BROTHERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I received an inspiring letter from Jim Miles of Columbia, South Carolina, describing the valor of his grandfather, James Hanna and his five granduncles. Incredibly, these six coal-mining brothers from West Virginia served at the same time in World War II.

Roy Hanna, U.S. Army, 10th Mountain Division, fought in Italy and Germany, receiving two bronze stars. Fred Hanna, U.S. Army, 1st Armored Division, was captured at Tunisia and then lost 90 pounds through torture and imprisonment, until he was liberated by British troops. Bert Hanna, U.S. Army, Armored Division, fought at Okinawa. Carl Hanna, U.S. Army Air Corps, 9th Air Force, fought in Europe as part of the anti-aircraft battalion. John Hanna, U.S. Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, fought in Germany. James Hanna, U.S. Marines, 6th Marine Division, fought in Okinawa as part of a mortar crew, but was quickly recruited as a sniper when battle commenced.

The Hanna brothers returned to Fort Jackson in South Carolina after the war, and John and James stayed to start their families in the Palmetto State. Even though all six brothers have passed away, their service will always be remembered as an enduring symbol of patriotism and duty. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hanna brothers for their brave service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF "COLUMBIA"

(Mr. FEENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today we will pass a resolution honoring the great members of the *Columbia* crew and their sacrifice. As Lincoln reminded us at Gettysburg, such tributes are altogether fitting and proper. But also, as he observed, we can never fully consecrate times and places of sacrifice. That task is ultimately done by those making the sacrifice. Rather, we, the living, are tasked with taking increased devotion to the unfinished business for which the last full measure of devotion was given.

Both NASA and the President have demonstrated such increased devotion. The NASA team entered the crucible of self-examination and emerged with strengthened resolve and will. The President has charted a course for a reinvigorated human space program, breaking out of low earth orbit, returning to the moon, and then exploring our solar system.

I hope this House responds in kind. This resolution reassures the loved ones of the *Columbia*'s crew that last year's loss will strengthen this Nation's resolve to continue the journey of discovery in space. In the weeks ahead, let us carry out this pledge of increased devotion.

COMMEMORATING "COLUMBIA" CREW, HOSTING THE SUPER BOWL, AND SEEKING THE TRUTH REGARDING INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will look forward to joining my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) on the floor of the House, to celebrate and commemorate the heroic lives of the seven *Columbia* astronauts, our friends and neighbors.

Today I would like to cite two disparately different perspectives on some issues that I think are important. First, let me take personal pride in congratulating all of the law enforcement, community leaders, civic leaders, our past mayor, and our present mayor Bill White, for what has been touted beyond other issues as the best played Super Bowl in the NFL's history, and to congratulate Houstonians for being the most welcoming city that I think the Super Bowl has experienced over the last years of its history.

We are proud of what we did. We are proud of the family-oriented entertainment that we offered, and we look forward to extending an invitation back to all of you in years to come. Might I congratulate Bob McNair and all of the civic leaders for what they have done.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying I will continue my representation of important issues as I discuss the need for congressional hearings on seeking the truth about the vulnerability or nonvulnerability of our intelligence-gathering.

WELCOME TO THE ORANGE MEADOWBRITE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Botanic Garden is a renowned scientific research facility located in my congressional district and they have made a number of major breakthroughs at their headquarters.

Following a 7-year effort, our Garden developed a new flower called the "Orange Meadowbrite." It is the first orange-blooming coneflower ever produced in cultivation.

The new Orange Meadowbrite will have benefits far beyond the aesthetic. The "green sector" of the Illinois economy employs more people than the traditional agricultural commodities sector. Horticulture employs over 150,000

people with an annual payroll exceeding \$1.7 billion. With the fair market value of all assets directly associated with horticulture at over \$2.9 billion, the development of this new flower will benefit many Illinois families.

We want to especially congratulate Dr. Jim Ault, Director of Ornamental Plant Research at the Garden. He is the father of the Orange Meadowbrite whose scientific name is *Echinacea*, "Arts Pride," in honor of Art Nolan, Jr., a long-time benefactor of the Garden's research program.

We here in the Congress want to honor Chicagoland Grows, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and especially Dr. Ault for adding a new and beautiful flower to America's garden.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will adopt a resolution recognizing the 93rd birthday of President Ronald Reagan. It will take place this coming Friday.

As we in Congress today face difficult choices ahead in crafting a Federal budget, I think we would do well to reflect on the wisdom of the 40th President of the United States who, in October of 1964, said, "There can be no security anywhere in the Free World if there is no fiscal and economic stability in the United States." He said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. And that 'the size of the Federal Government is not an appropriate barometer of social conscience or charitable concern.'"

But he also said in January 1981 in his first inaugural address, "It is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work; work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it. A healthy economy built on a vision of limited government."

Happy birthday, President Reagan. May Congress honor your memory by honoring the principles of limited government in our day that you so tirelessly advanced in yours.

COMMISSIONER TAGLIABUE MAKES BAD CHOICE IN CHOOSING MTV FOR SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SHOW

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I know many of my constituents will be very pleased with this resolution coming before the House today regarding the *Columbia* disaster, but this issue has not been the one that my

phones have been ringing about. I have heard from many of my constituents who are outraged over the offenses that they were exposed to in the NFL halftime show and many of the commercials.

The NFL has promoted football, and the Super Bowl in particular, as a time for families to gather around the television once a year to see the NFL's best and, indeed, I was doing that myself. I had my 5-year-old son and my teenage daughter. Rather than being one of the NFL's finest hours, it was one of their most offensive.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue issued a statement following the game calling the halftime show offensive, inappropriate, and embarrassing to the NFL.

Commissioner Tagliabue, when you hired one of the most offensive networks, MTV, to do the halftime show, what did you expect? MTV does not produce programming for family audiences. Indeed, my wife and I recognized that the halftime show was going to be offensive, and we changed the channel for 30 minutes.

Commissioner Tagliabue, wake up.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 2, 2004 at 2:05 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2005.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-146)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Budget I am proposing for 2005 is a reflection of this Nation's goals and purpose, and advances our three highest priorities. First, America will prevail in the War on Terror by defeating

terrorists and their supporters. Second, we will continue to strengthen our homeland defenses. Third, this Nation is building on the economic recovery that began in earnest in 2003 with policies that further promote growth and job creation. In addition, we will continue to strengthen the domestic institutions that best express our values, and serve the basic needs of all: good schools, quality and affordable health care, and programs that promote hope and compassion in our communities. In meeting these priorities, the Government must exercise fiscal responsibility by limiting spending growth, focusing on the results of Government programs, and cutting wasteful spending.

In 2003, America made great progress in the War on Terror. Afghanistan, which once was ruled by the repressive Taliban regime, now has adopted a new constitution, taking a fundamental step on the path to democracy. In Iraq, the remnants of the Ba'athist regime are being systematically rounded up, and Iraqis are assuming responsibility for their own security and future government. Libya has pledged to disclose and dismantle all of the regime's weapons of mass destruction programs.

These victories do not change a fundamental truth: Our Nation remains at war. In this war, which began on September 11, 2001, our citizens are the strategic targets of our enemy. We have responded in two significant ways: First, we have taken the offensive to hunt down the terrorists, deny them easy refuge, identify and seize their secret finances, and hold them and their sponsors to account. Second, we have moved to secure the Nation's homeland. In 2003, the new Department of Homeland Security began operations in the biggest reorganization of the Federal Government in a half a century. Over this past year, we have taken steps to reduce the terrorist threat to Americans here at home, and protect American interests overseas. This Nation has committed itself to the long war against terror. And we will see that war to its inevitable conclusion: the destruction of the terrorists.

Our Budget reflects the continuing importance of providing for the defense and security of the American people. We will continue to provide whatever it takes to defend our country by fully supporting our military, which is performing with great skill and honor in our battles overseas. We also are providing the necessary resources to our law enforcement and emergency personnel at home to meet the new threats posed by terrorists.

Just as we have taken much-needed steps to strengthen our national security, we have also pursued an aggressive agenda to promote our economic security. In 2003, we worked with the Congress to accelerate much of the tax relief that had been passed in 2001, so that Americans could keep more of their paychecks and so that businesses

would have more incentive to invest in new jobs and new equipment. As a result, our economy is strong, and growing stronger. Economic output in the third quarter rose at its fastest annual pace in nearly 20 years. More manufacturers reported rising factory activity than at any point in the last 20 years. American homeownership reached its highest level ever. Employment is on the rise. By cutting tax rates on investment gains and dividend payments, we promoted saving, capital formation, and investment—and Americans' holdings in the stock market rose by almost \$3 trillion.

There is still more to do, however. We cannot be satisfied until every American looking for work has found a job. We must sustain the momentum of this recovery by making the tax relief passed in 2001 and 2003 permanent. We will continue to open markets abroad for American products. And as the economy improves, we will also confront the challenge faced by workers who must learn new skills to fill new jobs. As a Nation, we must help Americans develop the skills they need to succeed in a highly competitive, highly productive economy. And so this Budget continues to support high standards for our schools and proposes a Jobs for the 21st Century initiative to ensure older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now.

Economic growth and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars will help us meet another important priority: cutting the budget deficit brought on by recession and war. We must continue to evaluate each Federal program, to make sure that it meet its goals, and produces and desired results. I proposed to hold discretionary spending growth below four percent, less than the average rate of growth of American family incomes. And spending unrelated to defense and homeland security will be held below one percent growth—less than the rate of inflation—while continuing to meet education, health care, and other priorities of this Nation. With this spending restraint and continued pro-growth economic policies, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years.

Finally, this Budget addresses the needs of a great and compassionate Nation, whose values are strong, and whose institutions of hope are enduring. We are helping communities of faith pull the addicted out of dependency. We are lifting children out of a life of despair by making sure they have mentors, and we will continue to press for improvements in our schools, so that no child is left behind. We are extending hope and healing to millions suffering from the global epidemic of AIDS. We will begin to implement of the benefits of our Medicare modernization and reform law, which will bring all our seniors coverage for prescription drugs. And we will make health care more affordable and extend the full benefits of our health care system to more Americans who currently have no health insurance.

Meeting these priorities will require hard work, skill, and the resources of a great Nation. Yet America has always risen to new challenges, and has always set new goals. Challenge and change have revealed the true strengths of this Nation and the enterprise of its people. And as 2004 begins, I am confident those gifts will serve us again, until our work is done.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
February 2, 2004.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 507), expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 507

Whereas February 1, 2004, marks the one year anniversary of the accident that claimed the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and the lives of seven heroic astronauts that made up its crew;

Whereas, while in orbit, *Columbia's* experienced crew conducted important microgravity research into the life sciences, physical sciences, and space and earth sciences, in addition to promoting education initiatives;

Whereas the *Columbia* experienced a structural failure that resulted in its destruction over the States of Texas and Louisiana as it approached to land on February 1, 2003;

Whereas the seven crew members of STS-107, Rick D. Husband (Commander), William C. McCool (Pilot), Michael P. Anderson (Payload Commander), Kalpana Chawla (Mission Specialist), David M. Brown (Mission Specialist), Laurel B. Clark (Mission Specialist), and Ilan Ramon (Payload Specialist) exhibited unparalleled bravery and commitment to the goal of exploring space and advancing mankind's search for knowledge in the cosmos;

Whereas Rick Husband, 45, was a Colonel in the United States Air Force, a test pilot, and a veteran of STS-96, and held degrees from Texas Tech University and California State University, Fresno;

Whereas William C. McCool, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and test pilot, and held degrees from the United States Naval Academy and the University of Maryland;

Whereas Michael P. Anderson, 43, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air

Force, a former pilot instructor and tactical officer, and a veteran of STS-89, and held degrees from the University of Washington and Creighton University;

Whereas Kalpana Chawla, 41, was an aerospace engineer, a Federal Aviation Administration Certified Flight Instructor, and a veteran of STS-87, and held degrees from Punjab Engineering College (India), the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Colorado, Boulder;

Whereas David M. Brown, 46, was a Captain in the United States Navy, a naval aviator, and a naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the College of William and Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School;

Whereas Laurel B. Clark, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison;

Whereas Ilan Ramon, 48, was a Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, a fighter pilot, and Israel's first astronaut;

Whereas these brave astronauts will never be forgotten by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration family and all those who believe in the importance of exploring our universe; and

Whereas when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Spirit landed on Mars on January 3, 2004, it brought with it a small commemorative plaque bearing the names of the seven astronauts, establishing an enduring memorial on another planet to the fallen crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives does offer its gratitude to the seven Space Shuttle *Columbia* astronauts and its heartfelt sympathy to their families on the anniversary of their loss, with the reassurance that this sacrifice will not have been made in vain, but will strengthen this Nation's resolve to continue their journey of discovery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 507.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for bringing this very important resolution to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we can still see their faces. Their friends can still hear their hearty laughter. And their families can still feel their embrace. At every mention of their names or reminder of their courage, our hearts ache with the hollow pangs of mourning and our thoughts and prayers turn to their loved ones. For there is no loss like the loss of a hero. And 1 year ago our Nation and our world lost seven.

Though they came from different nations, practiced different faiths, and sought answers to different mysteries, the winding road of providence brought them all to one place on earth where their common calling could be answered. They came to Johnson Space Center.

And there, at America's great laboratory of the impossible, they trained and studied, alongside the finest collection of public servants that I know, inching ever closer to their dreams and their destiny. And though we still mourn 1 year later, it is their lives that we honor in this resolution, not their loss.

Columbia's "corps of discovery" may be gone, but death has no power over the memory of heroes. It is left to us, then, in this House and in this Nation to live up to the challenge their lives of service issued: Will we carry on America's mission in space or will we ignore our deepest yearnings for knowledge and tether mankind to "the surly bonds of earth"? I think we know what the *Columbia* seven would say.

And if there be any doubt, just walk outside on a clear night, look into the southern sky and ask them.

For immortal in death, the *Columbia* heroes live on at home in the heavens, among the ancient stars that first stirred their souls, looking down on us all with love and hope, lighting our way through the darkness. They will answer you.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I come to this floor today just as I did a year ago, unfortunately, with a feeling of sadness.

I am an original cosponsor of this resolution that is before us today, House Resolution 507, because I believe that it is important that we never forget the sacrifices made by the brave and dedicated men and women of STS-107: Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, Ilan Ramon. Each one of them gave the last full measure of devotion to the cause of space exploration.

There have been numerous ceremonies over the past few days to remember the crew of *Columbia*, including yesterday's memorial service at Arlington Cemetery. I think it is important for this body as well, the United States House of Representatives, also to pause in our deliberations to express again our profound gratitude for their service and our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones on the anniversary of their deaths.

Back home, the space shuttle and the International Space Station take on a very personal dimension. All the astronauts in the NASA program, including the seven aboard the *Columbia*, are a part of our community. They are our friends, our neighbors. Their kids go to schools with our kids. They shop at the same grocery stores and pray at the same churches and synagogues.

The employees and contractors of Johnson Space Center are connected to the astronauts not just at work but in their everyday life. The community at JSC is an extended family.

Amidst all the lofty talk, ceremonies, and resolutions, let us not forget that a community and seven families lost friends, brothers, fathers, sons, wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters. Back in Clear Lake, right off the campus of JSC, there is a place called Frenchie's. It is a place where astronauts and employees go after work to relax a bit, have a meal or something, share their experiences and bond in a very special way.

I stopped by there the Saturday evening after the *Columbia* tragedy, and that day there was a feeling of crushing sadness and loss but also a hope that the vision and dream that those seven heroes died for will not be lost but instead will be reborn, that their loss will remind the American people of the great challenge we face and the prospect of a better world that the space program gives us.

The crew of STS-107 would not want us to dwell only on their deaths. Instead, I believe they would want us to reflect on the cause for which they gave their lives: the exploration of space. And I have no doubt that they would want us to rededicate ourselves to the task of ensuring that this Nation continues that exploration.

It is unfortunate that it took the *Columbia* tragedy to remind many of our citizens that space flight is not routine, it is hard. It is dangerous. The crew of *Columbia* knew that and yet they did not cease from exploring. Neither should we.

We have serious work to do over the next coming months in determining the best path for our America's space program. There are likely to be strong opinions and differing views on how best to proceed. And that is all to the good. America's space program is too important to the future of this country for us not to give it serious attention.

I welcome the discussion and debate as long as it leads to some clear decisions and commitments by both the Congress and the White House. However, that is not a task for today. Today we pause to remember the crew of STS-107, to offer our condolences to all who loved them.

I speak today not just as a Member of Congress, but as part of a community that firmly believes in what Rick Husband and William McCool and Michael Anderson and David Brown and Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Blair and Ilan Ramon gave their lives for.

On behalf of the Ninth District of Texas and the people of the Johnson Space Center and that community, I urge this country and this body to go forward, and I urge my colleagues to join us in support of H. Res. 507.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2003, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on a 16-day mission. The mission would take the *Columbia* seven astronauts on a journey of over 6 million miles. While in orbit the STS-107 conducted important microgravity research in areas that would impact the lives of all mankind.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, like many who live in north Texas, I was home in the district that weekend, and I will never forget the sonic boom, a sonic boom that was more felt than heard, that morning in north Texas. When *Columbia* broke up in the Texas sky on the morning of February 1, 2003, the seven astronauts aboard were 16 minutes from home, 16 minutes from completion of a successful mission, 16 minutes from once again seeing their loved ones.

The final comm check to *Columbia* from mission control at Johnson Space Center went unanswered. The families awaiting the crew's return at Kennedy were welcomed by an empty sky.

For those looking up at the north Texas sky that morning, it was painfully evident that something had gone terribly amiss.

Today it is our duty to honor the seven brave astronauts who perished in the Shuttle *Columbia* accident a little over a year ago. The crew included Commander Rick Husband, Pilot William McCool, Payload Commander Michael Anderson, Mission Specialist David Brown, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

Knowing full well the dangers of space flight, they faced them willingly. Because of their courage, we will miss them even more.

During the past year NASA has undergone a serious investigation in the causes of this accident. And over the last year the agency has learned from its tragedies as well as its triumphs. The recent success of the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, show that the United States is a leader in space exploration. But we must remember that failures in this realm can often have very human consequences. Since the loss of *Columbia*, the President and Congress have been working to map out a clear mission for NASA and to restructure human space flight programs around that mission. As we continue this process, we cannot afford to forget the memories of the seven *Columbia* astronauts that fateful day.

Yesterday, the Administrator of NASA, Sean O'Keefe, dedicated a memorial to the *Columbia* astronauts at Arlington National Cemetery. In a place dedicated to fallen liberators and defenders of freedom, it is a fitting memorial to honor those who gave their lives in pursuit of knowledge and in pursuit of discovery.

President Bush has said the cause of "exploration and discovery is not an option that we choose. It is a desire

written into the human heart. We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray that they will return. They go in peace for all mankind and all mankind is in their debt."

Our sympathies go out to the grieving families and, indeed, the sympathies of this body and of a grateful Nation. It is an honor to stand here today to honor the sacrifices of these explorers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who represents many of the friends and family of the lost crew members of the STS-107.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) very much. And might I take a personal point of privilege to congratulate the gentleman as the new ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics of our very great committee, the Committee on Science.

Let me also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for his leadership in allowing us to come to the floor today and join in a bipartisan manner of celebration but also commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 507 enthusiastically but with some sorrow and some recognition. Allow me to acknowledge that day as one of public and global shock. And so we continue to mourn publicly and globally, not just in the United States, but around the world.

As my good friend and colleague said, these were our friends and neighbors, those of us who came from Houston. We knew them as they worshipped, as they have practiced their trade, but also as they played. So I rise in support of this resolution and commend my colleagues from Texas for taking the time to honor the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* who lost their lives a year ago.

When the *Columbia* went down the world lost a great symbol of human ingenuity and creativity. Those of us from Houston, as I said, lost friends and neighbors and, of course, family members and brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles and a myriad of relationships.

I would like to look back one more time on what we have lost, seven of humankind's greatest heroes, Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana Chawla, and Colonel Ilan Ramon.

Let me also acknowledge the thousands upon thousands of NASA employees around the Nation. I know they mourn and I know they care as they are caring and mourning at this time.

I also want to pay special respect to Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Husband, who graced our presence on Sunday, February 1, in their words and remarks at Grace Community Church, again, a place of honor for those two men, along with their colleagues where they attended and where I was able to worship with them just a year ago as we honored and mourned those great fallen heroes.

Those seven courageous explorers paid the ultimate price to improve our understanding of the universe, to advance our medical and engineering services, to keep the United States' economy on the cutting edge of technology, and to inspire young and old.

We look forward to this budgeting process where we hope the President will join us by using his economic and engine arm, if you will, to push the vision forward by the right appropriations for what we may need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am also a proud cosponsor of this resolution as was noted. I thank the sponsors who are on the floor in joining with 238 of my other colleague who have joined me in cosponsoring the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to the seven members of the *Columbia* crew.

I ask my colleagues to join us in signing on to this resolution, to give to the families a special Congressional Gold Medal that they can hold and pass down to their children and generations to come.

This gold medal would honor the families of the crew members by awarding them this particular tribute, and it would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to make bronze duplicates of that medal available for sale to the public to serve as an enduring reminder of the sacrifice of these brave pioneers. That means that they can have something that will add investment to the future of space.

NASA is a source of dreams for our young and old alike, providing insights into the origins, destiny and wonder of our universe. In pursuing the noble goal of exploration, NASA also conducts scientific space-based research, develops innovations that save lives, spur our economy and keep us on the cutting edge of technology. NASA has developed systems that make our satellites and communications infrastructure more reliable and less vulnerable to cyber-terrorism.

NASA inspires young engineers and scientists. In essence, Mr. Speaker, NASA is worthy of our support. It is worthy of the vision. Let us support NASA as we go into 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and commend my colleague from Texas for taking the time to honor the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, who lost their lives a year ago. When the *Columbia* went down, the world lost a great symbol of human ingenuity and creativity. Those of us from Houston also lost friends and neighbors that day. I would like to look back one more time on what we have lost—seven of humankind's greatest he-

roes: Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana Chawla, and Colonel Ilan Ramon. Those seven courageous explorers paid the ultimate price to improve our understanding of the universe, to advance our medical and engineering sciences, to keep the United States economy on the cutting edge of technology, and to inspire young and old alike.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution, and would also like to thank Mr. BURGESS for joining with 238 other Members of Congress in cosponsoring a bill I have introduced, which would posthumously award the seven members of the *Columbia* crew with the Congressional Gold Medal. It would honor the families of the crewmembers, but it would do more than that. It would also require the Secretary of the Treasury to make bronze duplicates of that medal available for sale to the public, to serve as an enduring reminder of the sacrifice of those brave pioneers. I am sure sales of those medallions would more than pay for the cost of producing the Gold Medals. I hope to see that bill go forward soon, as we continue to focus on the *Columbia*, what it meant to us, and what it means to our future.

NASA is a source of dreams for our young and old alike, providing insights into the origins, destiny, and wonder, of our universe. In pursuing the noble goal of exploration, NASA also conducts scientific space-based research, develops innovations that save lives, spur on our economy, and keep us on the cutting edge of technology. NASA has developed systems that make our satellites and communications infrastructure more reliable and less vulnerable to cyberterrorism. NASA inspires young engineers, scientists—and all sorts of people who want to a part of something truly great and noble—to push their minds to new levels of excellence. These people become role models for future generations of intellectual pioneers.

The astronauts aboard the *Columbia* were of the highest caliber, exemplifying our Nation's pioneering ideals and always striving for excellence. They were skilled professionals, scientists, clinicians, and adventurers. They were family men and women, and we will cherish their contributions to our country and the world. The crew of the *Columbia* represented the diversity of our Nation, and our spirit of collaboration with other nations.

We honor the seven members of the crew for their heroism and spirit. We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by these men and women on behalf of the country. They helped mankind reach new heights. As we look back with sorrow on what we lost a year ago, I hope we can also celebrate the great accomplishments and spirit of the *Columbia* crew.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the chairman of the Committee on Science.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for introducing this resolution and for calling attention to the memory of great Americans and an Israeli.

Husband, McCool, Anderson, Brown, Chawla, Clark, Ramon, One year after their tragic deaths, their names remain seared in our national memory.

Of course, their loss is felt most deeply by those who call them mother, father, husband, wife, neighbor, friends; but they are an inspiration to us all. Their deaths have not been in vain. They have prompted young people to think about what they can be when they grow up and about how Americans take great risk in striving for great achievement.

Our Nation's space program is built on the dreams and aspirations of an exploring people willing to take risk. This Congress is proud of our explorers, those who have returned and those few whom fate has held back.

With this resolution we honor the seven men and women who flew the Shuttle *Columbia's* final fateful mission. They will never be forgotten. Their memory will live in the hearts and minds of all Americans, and explorers throughout the world will always think of them as they gaze towards the heavens with wonder and amazement and awe.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), in whose district some of the shuttle actually came down.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me hasten to thank the leaders of this resolution and all of the cosponsors and our esteemed leaders of the committee.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 507, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the lives of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

Let me express my appreciation to all of the members of the committee that has been nonpartisan and cohesive in considering all of our concerns coming before that esteemed committee.

I am very certain that the lives of these people have not been lost in vain. This space exploration research program has been one of the most successful research programs in the history of our country. We know that because we have investigated, we have listened to reports that we will improve upon what caused this accident, and we can hopefully say that this will never happen again.

Over 40 years ago the foresight of persons that came along before us caused us to get into this type of research. We also owe those leaders some homage for their foresight, and I am hoping that we will then have the foresight to continue the research.

Human space exploration is inherently risky. Distance, speed and environment that cannot support human life combine to make human space flights particularly precarious. Unfortunately, the world has new evidence of the dangers associated with space exploration. Millions watched as images of a singular, brilliant point of light in the sky became two, three and four points of light as the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart over my home State of Texas and my hometown of Dallas.

Today we honor these brave men and women on the anniversary of their fateful 16-day mission dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences. This most unfortunate and tragic loss of five men and two women, representing the faces of a diversity of races and nationalities, will be mourned for these great American heroes and heroines, and we will never forget the reasons why they were in space, exploring how we can make life better on this Earth.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER). I know that in East Texas thousands of people turned out to look for the remains of the shuttle and they came down in the district of the gentleman.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), for sponsoring this resolution.

It was one year ago that we all shared in the tragedy of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. A team of seven astronauts traveling back home from the frontier of outer space paid the ultimate sacrifice as their spacecraft broke apart across the blue skies of East Texas. The seven who perished showed great patriotism and courage, serving our Nation in the field of the space exploration.

The NASA astronaut corps is the very best and brightest of our Nation, men and women unafraid to strap themselves into a spacecraft and launch off into the unknown so that our Nation and our world can expand our knowledge and improve our well-being.

These astronauts were pursuing their dreams and ours. And when tragedy struck their ship, a Nation in grief united to show honor to their service. Over 25,000 workers and volunteers spent months searching through the woods and fields of East Texas, seeking to recover the *Columbia* and her crew. In towns like Hemphill, Rusk, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Lufkin, the citizens of East Texas and my congressional district responded as did all citizens across America.

East Texans are patriotic folks who are known to help a neighbor or friend in need. For weeks on end they combed through the thickets of the piney woods, they cooked meals, they brought in supplies, they gave shelter to those who came from all across America to help.

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The NASA family became a part of the East Texas family, and they will always remain in our hearts. The scriptures bring us solace and hope in times like these. The psalmist David wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day, they pour forth speech. Night after night they display knowledge."

Today, we remember the crew of the *Columbia* and their legacy. We remember their sacrifice and honor their family and friends who remain in our prayers on this difficult anniversary.

The seven brave astronauts who died would want us to look forward to the future with determination to press on. They would want us to uphold the mission of NASA in times of tragedy, as well as in times of triumph, and most of all, they would want us to keep reaching, to keep learning more, to explore more, to venture on into space for the benefit of all mankind.

Today, we honor Colonel Rick Husband, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Dr. Laurel Clark, Dr. David Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, Colonel Ilan Ramon. A grateful Nation will always remember, and in their memory, may we never cease to reach for the heavens.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my friend who was visiting in Houston this weekend.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise today to join with my colleagues in remembering the loss of the seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, as well as to express our heartfelt sympathies to the families of Rick Husband, commander; William C. McCool, pilot; Michael P. Anderson, payload commander; Kalpana Chawla, mission specialist; David M. Brown, mission specialist; Laurel B. Clark, mission specialist; and Ilan Ramon, payload specialist.

The seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* were on a 16-day scientific mission. The mission held the promise of answering scientific problems that we confront here on earth. The lives and sacrifices of these seven men and women should be remembered. That is why last year I wrote a letter urging the United States Postal Service to design a stamp that would honor them and the space program.

The space program has meant a great deal to our Nation, and its benefits to mankind are enormous. The brave crew of the Shuttle *Columbia* was disembarking from a mission which they believed in and loved doing. They are indeed fallen heroes who are held in high regard as role models for many children around the world who dream of going to space someday.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women represented the best and the brightest of what America and the world has to offer. They were willing to go to the outer limits to explore for the benefit of all humanity. As Socrates said, "Man must rise above the earth, to the top of the world, to the top of the atmosphere and beyond, for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives."

Once again, our heart goes out to the families and colleagues of these brave

men and women who gave the most that they had to offer; indeed their lives, for the cost of space.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to extend my appreciation and commendation to the managers of this important legislation, commending the 1-year anniversary of this tragic event that occurred to these seven astronauts that represented our Nation. I was privileged to be a member of the congressional delegation that personally visited Texas last year when we conducted a very special service on behalf of these great Americans.

I think if there is anything that I can remember well on this special service that was held last year was the fact of the diversity of these distinguished Americans. I recall one whose ancestry was from the country of India, and we had a gentleman also who was a former pilot representing the State of Israel, showing the idea that this is not just an American project.

I think what this sacrifice extends in my understanding, and certainly my belief, is how much humanity that there was in the efforts and the sacrifices that these great people made and certainly I would like to extend my condolences and appreciation to the families of these seven astronauts who paid the ultimate price, giving of their lives for the betterment of this troubled world that we live in.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers at this time. I would just thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for the work he has done on H. Res. 507. I urge my colleagues to join us in passage.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2003, the tragic accident of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* took the lives of seven of our finest Americans. One year later, this sad event remains fresh in our minds, and we continue to share in the sorrow of those who lost their loved ones and family members that terrible day.

Among the brave astronauts aboard the *Columbia* was Dr. Laurel Clark of Racine, Wisconsin. All of those who knew Laurel were touched by her extraordinary life and are still coping with the pain that her absence has caused. It is very difficult to lose a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister and a friend, and our thoughts should be with Laurel's family and loved ones as they continue to honor her memory.

Although Laurel Clark lived only 41 years on this earth, she was accomplished as a doctor, a scientist and a mother. She poured her energy into her many pursuits and showed us that with focus, passion and dedication, it is possible to achieve your dreams. Laurel also never forgot the importance of family, and it is impossible to quantify the joy that she brought to those closest to her.

Unwavering in her efforts to improve the world, Laurel began with those around her. In

the end, she made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of this cause, hoping that the scientific research she conducted in space could provide a better world for all humanity. As we honor the life of Laurel Clark, we must never forget the joy, happiness and everlasting inspiration that she brought to the world, and we should strive to live our lives as she did.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, words are not sufficient to describe how I felt on Saturday morning, February 1, 2003, when the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus announced that the Space Shuttle *Columbia* had gone down. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the astronauts we lost. One year later, we remember and honor *Columbia's* crew whose lives were precious to all Americans.

As part of the positive legacy emanating from the *Columbia* space shuttle disaster, I want to take this opportunity to commend three Dorsey High School Students from my Congressional District—Atiabet Ijan Amabel, Cristina Mojarro, and Juan Carlos Ortega—for participating in the STARS Academy research mission which assisted the students, along with their counterparts from China, in formulating and constructing a silk worm experiment that was placed aboard the shuttle.

The STARS Academy is an online cultural and scientific global learning program. It incorporates a standards based curriculum in math, science, language arts, geography, and technology. On the STS-107 mission, schools from six countries developed life and physical sciences experiments, while working with astronauts, space scientists, engineers, and other experts. For this mission the participating schools came from: Australia—Spider Experiment; Israel—Crystalline fiber growth; Japan—Medaka fish growth; USA—Syracuse Ants Experiment; Liechtenstein—Carpenter Bee Experiment; and China & USA—Silk Worm Experiment.

Mr. Speaker, despite the tragic events, this is an historic moment for Dorsey High School and its students who participated in the silk-worm experiment. Their projects and dedication to science are fitting honors to the astronauts who lost their lives and an inspiration to all future space explorers.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow for the crew and family members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster.

While Sunday marked the one year anniversary of the space shuttle tragedy, the memory and dedication of the *Columbia* crew must never be forgotten. The seven astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*—six American and one Israeli—exemplified the courage and commitment that have been the hallmark of America's space program for decades. Their efforts to better understand the heavens and advance the cause of scientific discovery added greatly to our society and our Nation's vision for the future.

I am especially saddened by the loss of Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist Dr. Kalpana Chawla. K.C., as she was known by her friends and coworkers, received her master's of aerospace engineering degree from the University of Texas at Arlington in my Congressional District.

A native of India, K.C. was the first woman from her country to enter space. Selected amongst thousands of applicants by NASA in 1994, she never forgot her time in Arlington or her Indian roots. In fact, among some of the

items that she took with her into space was a UTA T-shirt with "UT Arlington Aerospace Engineering" printed on one side and "As a matter of fact, I am a rocket scientist," on the other.

K.C. took great pride in her Indian roots. She believed her entry into space was a great accomplishment for her country and was impressed by the level of support that her fellow Indians expressed for her. In a final e-mail that she sent to the students of her hometown school, she said: "The path from dreams to success does exist; may you have the vision to find it, the courage to get onto it and the perseverance to follow it. Wishing you a great journey."

As we stop to remember and reflect upon the life of Dr. Kalpana Chawla and her fellow crew members of *Columbia*, we must assure ourselves that their lives were not lost in vain. We must continue the mission to explore space and to educate the underprivileged about the mission that K.C. and her fellow astronauts embarked upon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of all the astronauts as they continue to mourn the loss of these amazing heroes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the crew of *Columbia*. The names Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon will now forever be linked to the risks and rewards of exploring the frontier. They were all extraordinary people.

Rick Husband. A man of strong faith in God. A man who dreamed of taking part in space travel since his childhood in Amarillo, Texas. A family man, committed to his community. He set the highest of standards for us all.

William McCool. A man who personified excellence in all he did. From San Diego, since the earliest age, he dreamed of flying and followed his dream with an unending fount of energy and skill. While gifted, he never showed any hubris; in fact, he was always humble—something we all could learn from.

Michael Anderson. From Pittsburgh, he had a drive uncommon to most people. He loved science and learning. He followed his passion for science. This led him to NASA and space flight. He knew his responsibility as an astronaut and took every opportunity to talk to schoolchildren about the excitement and value of space exploration.

Kalpana Chawla. She lived a uniquely American life. Born and raised in India, she came to America as an immigrant. She worked hard and studied engineering and science. She became an American citizen and from there became an astronaut. She made her home nation and her adopted nation proud of her in all that she did.

David Brown. Truly a man for all seasons. He was a physician, a Navy pilot, and member of the astronaut corp. Everything he set out to do, he accomplished. He had many other goals he was anxious to accomplish after this mission was completed.

Laurel Clark. A wife. A mother. A physician. An astronaut. She was aware of what a special honor it was to be selected to fly in space. She was thankful for the special opportunity that she had. She lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed scuba diving and flying airplanes. Everything she did, she loved.

Ilan Ramon. The first Israeli in space. A dedicated and brave pilot. The son of Holocaust survivor. He is an inspiration to a small, determined nation.

Commander Husband, on the evening before they launched, shared with his crew and their families, his favorite passage from the book of Joshua. This is instructive for all of us as we reflect on this tragedy: "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

That is where we are as a nation right now. We live in a dangerous world with many challenges facing us. The measure of a truly great nation is one that can face down its challenges on earth and excel and lead the world to a higher level.

That is why we have NASA and why we must recommit ourselves, now more than ever, to the dream and adventure of human space flight that was such a part of the lives of these brave men and women.

How we decided to respond to this tragedy will be judged very closely by many generations that come after us. I am proud to say that the President has risen to the occasion and has charted a bold new exploration initiative. We cannot let future generations down and walk away from our destiny in space. The *Columbia 7* will be memorialized by a great, strong, robust return to space by America.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and our Nation in remembering the *Columbia* space shuttle tragedy of one year ago. The people of Guam join their fellow Americans today in remembrance, prayer, and tribute for the crew of STS-107 and all that they stood for and represented in their careers and lives.

Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, Willie McCool, and Ilan Ramon were many different things to many different people. They were mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, daughters and sons, teachers and friends. There is one thing, however, that unites them all. They are all heroes in the truest sense of the word. Today, we reflect upon their lives and the qualities that they embodied. We draw our strength and resolve from the example they set and we remain committed to our nation's space program in their honor and because of what they have taught us.

Guam remembers today Commander Willie McCool, who piloted the *Columbia* on that fateful day one year ago. Commander McCool lived in Guam while his father served as a Navy pilot and attended Dededo Middle School and John F. Kennedy High School. He later married Lani Vallejos of Dededo, Guam. While America lost a hero, Guam lost a son in the aftermath of the *Columbia* tragedy. Today I extend my prayers and thoughts to his wife Lani, their children, Sean, Christopher, and Cameron, and their extended family in Guam.

I also extend my prayers and thoughts to his parents, Barry and Audrey McCool, and to his father and mother-in-law, Albert and Atilana Vallejos, of Dededo, Guam.

My first bill in Congress was H.R. 672, which renamed the Guam South Elementary/Middle School of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools System in honor of Commander McCool. President Bush signed this bill into law on April 22, 2003 and on August 29, 2003 the school was dedicated in his honor during an emotional ceremony attended by family, military officials, government dignitaries and fellow astronauts Piers Sellers and Stephanie Wilson. At this ceremony, Guam Governor Felix Camacho posthumously bestowed upon Commander McCool the Ancient Order of the Chamorro, the highest award given on behalf of the people of Guam in recognition of substantial contributions to the betterment of society. Commander McCool's beacon of light will continue to shine and inspire young and old alike to look towards the stars and dream big dreams.

Commander McCool blessed our island and indeed our country with his passion, intellect, and purpose. The people of Guam are proud to call him one of our own and will always remember him as a role model for our children. The inspiration Commander McCool has been to our people is something that will not fade and that can never be taken away. This past weekend the people of Guam gathered in the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in our capital city of Hagåtña to pay tribute to Commander McCool and the *Columbia* crew, to recall their accomplishments, and to pray for their families.

In remembering Commander McCool I am always touched by a poem he wrote while attending Dededo Middle School in Guam. Reading the poem today, it has an eerie quality that shows not only his love of Guam, but a glimpse into his future career as an astronaut:

I came to an island in the middle of the sea,
It was so nice that I jumped for glee.
There are palm trees, coconuts, and bananas too,
Plus birds and fish so unbelievable but true.
It is so nice that no one can complain.
But he who does must be insane.
This is such a nice and beautiful place,
You'd think it was heaven—or outer space.

He signed this poem, "William 'Willie' McCool, Dededo beep! beep! Roadrunner," referring to his school's mascot.

Let us always remember Willie's devotion to his family, to the people of Guam, to our country, and to the betterment of the world. I thank my colleague, Mr. BURGESS, for offering this resolution today. God Bless the *Columbia* crew and their families.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 507.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CORRECTING TECHNICAL ERRORS IN ENROLLMENT OF S. 610, NASA FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2003.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 354) to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill S. 610, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 354

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 610) to amend the provision of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes."

(2) In section 1, strike "2003" and insert "2004".

(3) In section 3(b), strike "by adding at the end" and insert "by inserting after the item relating to chapter 97".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO END CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 157) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 157

Whereas for more than 1,000 years Tibet has maintained a sovereign national identity that is distinct from the national identity of China;

Whereas armed forces of the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1949 and 1950 and have occupied it since then;

Whereas according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Chinese Government has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns, monks and lay persons as prisoners of conscience for their efforts in speaking out against the Chinese occupation of Tibet;

Whereas on October 14, 1989, Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan Buddhist nun, and 5 other nuns from the Michungri Nunnery were arrested in Lhasa after chanting songs and slogans and marching in a procession as part of a peaceful demonstration that they organized to protest the Chinese occupation of Tibet;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron and the other nuns were kicked, beaten and given electric shocks on their hands, shoulders, breasts, tongue, and face while in Chinese custody;

Whereas in 1993, Phuntsog Nyidron and 13 other nuns secretly recorded songs about Tibetan independence and smuggled the recordings out of Drapchi prison;

Whereas the Chinese Government charged Phuntsog Nyidron with "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda" for her role in recording and smuggling out the taped songs and, on October 9, 1993, extended her prison sentence to 17 years, one of the longest reported sentences of any female Tibetan political prisoner;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron was awarded the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1995;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron is just one of many individuals whom the Chinese Government has held as a prisoner of conscience;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues to imprison individuals as prisoners of conscience for their involvement in peaceful protests against the brutal Chinese occupation of Tibet; and

Whereas the Chinese Government continues to exert control over religious and cultural institutions in Tibet, abusing human rights through torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without public trial of Tibetans who peacefully expressed their political or religious views: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of the People's Republic of China should, as a gesture of goodwill and in order to promote human rights, immediately release all prisoners of conscience, including Phuntsog Nyidron.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by commending my colleague, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), for sponsoring this resolution; and this resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding individuals being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet. It calls for the Chinese Government to release all its prisoners of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution notes that the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations have documented continuing and widespread human rights violations committed by the Chinese Government throughout China and throughout Tibet. This resolution specifically highlights the plight of imprisoned Tibetan nun Phuntsog Nyidron who was arrested along with five other nuns back in 1989 for peacefully demonstrating against China's occupation of Tibet. She was beaten and she was tortured for her peaceful protest, and further, her prison sentence was extended when she and 13 other nuns secretly recorded and smuggled out of Drapchi prison songs of Tibetan independence.

Her continued defiance of the Chinese Government earned her one of the longest reported prison sentences of any female Tibetan political prisoner, and, Mr. Speaker, she continues to languish in prison. What is more, she is hardly alone.

This resolution notes that the Chinese Government has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns and hundreds of monks and laypersons as prisoners of conscience for one crime, and that is speaking out against the Chinese government's occupation.

Mr. Speaker, the United States House of Representatives has a long tradition of being a voice for the voiceless. The United States House of Representatives has a long tradition of being a champion for the oppressed, and, Mr. Speaker, this body has a long tradition of leading the charge for human rights, and I encourage my colleagues to support this H. Res. 157.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from California, for being the manager of this legislation on the majority side.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I would first like to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), for his leadership on this Tibet issue and for his introduction of this important resolution.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the

chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, for allowing this resolution to move to the floor and also the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our senior Democratic ranking member, for his support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. The resolution before the House is not the first expression of Congress' great concern regarding the treatment of Tibetans by the Chinese Government. Two years ago, Congress overwhelmingly approved the Tibet Policy Act, and we have also considered several resolutions regarding the lack of political and religious freedom in Tibet, but as Congress debated these larger policy matters, it was easy to lose sight of the impact of Chinese repression on individual Tibetans. To understand the brutality of Chinese rule in Tibet, we need to put a human face on it.

The Udall resolution accomplishes this important task by calling attention to the case of Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan nun who is the longest surviving female political prisoner in Tibet.

What was Phuntsog Nyidron's crime? Three days after learning that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, she led five other nuns in a protest in downtown Lhasa against the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Instead of ignoring these peaceful protests, Chinese authorities arrested the nuns and subjected them to horrific torture.

Phuntsog Nyidron and her fellow nuns were kicked, beaten, and given electric shocks all over their bodies. They were strung up by their hands and beaten with an iron rod, all this because they were unhappy with the Chinese occupation of Tibet and dared to speak their minds.

Mr. Speaker, even torture would not silence Phuntsog Nyidron. In 1993 Phuntsog Nyidron and 13 other imprisoned nuns secretly recorded songs about Tibetan independence and smuggled their recordings out of prison. In one song, the nun thanked, "all of you outside who have done all that you can for us in prison. We will never forget you."

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In another song, the nuns sang of being "beaten and treated brutally, but this will never change the Tibetan people's perseverance."

Mr. Speaker, when the Chinese Government found out about these songs, they extended the sentence of Phuntsog Nyidron to 17 years because she was "spreading counterrevolutionary propaganda." Mr. Speaker, sentencing a Tibetan nun to 17 years in prison for peacefully protesting the treatment of Tibetans and making a musical tape to expose prison conditions is absolutely outrageous, in my humble opinion, and a violation of every international human rights treaty to which China is a party.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we in the House are sending a signal to Phuntsog Nyidron that we have not forgotten her, her fellow nuns, and China's other fellow prisoners of conscience. We are signaling to the Chinese Government that it is time to release Phuntsog Nyidron and other prisoners of conscience as a humanitarian gesture, particularly as China celebrates the Lunar New Year.

Today, we are celebrating the perseverance of the Tibetan people who have suffered enormous repression and deprivation over the last 50 years. The Tibetan people will one day regain their freedom, and those who languish in Chinese prisons for opposing Chinese rule in Tibet will be celebrated as heroes.

Mr. Speaker, years ago it was my privilege to accompany our former chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, my good friend and the gentleman from New York, Mr. Ben Gilman, also an outstanding leader of our Nation who was a great advocate of human rights throughout the world. We traveled to the town of Dharmasala in India, where the Dalai Lama and his Tibetan followers live since they were driven out of Tibet by Chinese authorities. To this day, I will never forget the privilege of meeting with the Dalai Lama and the good people of Tibet who are currently living in this town of Dharmasala in India.

The situation between the people of Tibet and China is not an easy matter to resolve, but we certainly should express our grave concerns with the way the people of Tibet are treated by the Chinese Government. At this time I will not get into the debate as to whether the Tibetans are of Chinese ancestry and if at one time or another Tibet was part of the Chinese empire centuries ago. Of paramount importance is our concern for the inhumane treatment of our fellow human beings anywhere on this planet, the very reason why this resolution is important to note the will of this body before our Nation and to the world.

Mr. Speaker, the great people of Tibet truly appreciate and know the meaning of freedom because they are not free, and so I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 157.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the author of this resolution.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in support of my bill, House Resolution 157, which calls on China to release its Tibetan prisoners of conscience. I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the chairman and ranking member of

the Committee on International Relations, for moving this bill to the House floor today.

Around 100 political prisoners remain behind bars in the Drapchi prison in Lhasa, the most notorious Chinese prison in Tibet. I was lucky enough last fall to meet one of Drapchi's most recently released political prisoners. Ngawang Sangdrol was her name. This humble remarkable young woman survived 11 years of torture and deprivation in prison before she reached her 21st birthday. She was released from prison in 2002 and was allowed to travel to the United States for medical treatment in March of 2003.

Despite the horrific treatment she suffered in prison, her spirit was never broken and her dedication to the cause of Tibetan freedom never flagged. The horrific treatment that Ngawang Sangdrol experienced in prison is unimaginable to most of us. She recalls being made to stare at the sun while holding newspapers under her arms and between her knees. If the newspapers fell, she would be beaten. She was electrocuted with a baton and was made to run with her arms behind her while stones were thrown at her.

When I asked this young woman, who had been through so much, what the worst day of her imprisonment was, she responded she had no answer; "they were all the worst day of my life," she said.

Many of the Tibetan nuns and monks who suffered along with Ngawang Sangdrol remain in Drapchi prison today. Mentioned explicitly in this resolution is a nun by the name of Phuntsog Nyidron. This 34-year-old Tibetan nun is the longest serving female political prisoner in Tibet. She was only 20 years old when she was arrested in 1989 for taking part in a peaceful protest. Her sentence was extended in 1993 when she and 13 other nuns recorded and smuggled out of prison songs about their love for their country, their people, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Tibetans are a peace loving and resilient people, and even under the Chinese occupation they have been able to retain their culture outside Tibet's borders. In my district in New Mexico I enjoy having a significant group of Tibetan refugees as constituents. It is these Tibetans and the people who care about them who led to this resolution's introduction and its eventual passage.

This resolution also comes at a crucial time in the treatment of Tibetan refugees elsewhere. After the Nepalese government handed over 18 Tibetan refugees to the Chinese Government last summer, the U.S. Congress put significant pressure on them to issue an official policy stating that it would not happen again. We now know definitively that at least two of the Tibetans who were given to the Chinese authorities were thrown in prison, whereupon they were tortured. However, even after the Nepalese government issued its new policy, reports continue to sur-

face that they are handing over Tibetan refugees to the Chinese. This is unacceptable. I take this opportunity not only to call on the Chinese Government to release its political prisoners but also to tell the Nepalese government that the United States takes very seriously the welfare of Tibetan refugees everywhere.

With the passage of this resolution today, we send a message to the Chinese Government that we have not turned a blind eye to Tibet. Quite the contrary. We closely monitor what occurs in Tibet and will continue to do so. And with that we call on the Chinese to release its political prisoners out of good will and responsibility.

There is a poem by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama that ends: "Work for peace in your heart and in the world work for peace. And I say again never give up. No matter what is going on, never give up."

It is with this sentiment that I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. There is credible evidence that international action on behalf of prisoners in China improves their situation. Since 2002, nine political prisoners have been released from prison as a result of international pressure.

On behalf of Phuntsog Nyidron and her fellow prisoners who are being so unjustly treated, please join me in voting in favor of House Resolution 157. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for his assistance in this matter and all the other Members the bipartisan group of Members that are a part of this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would make the observation that Tibet has been under Beijing rule since 1949, when it was invaded and at that time incorporated into China. In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled in exile to India, and he fled with tens of thousands of his followers.

The Dalai Lama has shed daylight over the years on many human rights violations. More than 1 million Tibetans have died under the Chinese occupation as a result of torture and as a result of starvation and as a result of execution.

No nation is exempt from the demands of human dignity. I should note that this House has a notable record when it comes to Tibet. The cochairmen of the Human Rights Caucus, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), have been instrumental in this effort. Last year, the Dalai Lama gave the keynote address to the Human Rights Caucus to recognize the 20th anniversary of our Human Rights Caucus here.

The People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom in terms of freedom of belief, or freedom of expression, or freedom of association. China is still holding hundreds of political prisoners

of conscience for peaceful protests against the Chinese occupation.

Seventeen years of additional sentence for singing a Tibetan song in prison is truly draconian, but it is not atypical of the treatment of those who try to keep their culture alive or those who try to keep their religion alive; nor are the tortures catalogued here today by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), nor are those tortures atypical of what we have heard in committee about the condition that goes on in those prisons. That is why this resolution is so important.

The human rights violations, the arbitrary arrests, the detention without public trial of Tibetans who peacefully express their political or religious views must come to an end, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I know the distinguished minority leader would have loved to be here this morning to express her views on this very important issue, but she is necessarily otherwise obligated and will submit a statement for the record on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, again I commend my good friend from California (Mr. ROYCE) for his comments. Over the years, both of us, as members of the Committee on International Relations, know that the issue of Tibet has always been one of those issues that we want to address forthrightly, but then there is always this idea or the response from the Chinese Government saying, well, this is really an internal affair kind of thing and, therefore, it is not any other country's business. I wonder if my good friend from California agrees with this statement being the response of our Chinese friends.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. In point of fact, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to respond that China invaded Tibet in 1949 and subjugated its people. So for the government of Beijing to now say this is an internal matter, first there are two points here: First of all, they are claiming it is an internal matter because they subjugated an indigenous people in Tibet and then systematically killed over a million Tibetans and then moved people from mainland China into the Tibetan communities in order to try to erase a culture.

Secondarily, even if this was action taking place in Beijing itself, we would be speaking out. Why? Because there are certain fundamental standards of human rights when it comes to freedom of religion and freedom of speech. And when we have things as egregious as a young woman who is a nun, who is tortured and sent to prison for an additional 17 years for singing a cultural

song about Tibetan heritage, that is so outrageous that the international community would speak out regardless of what country that crime against humanity occurred in. And this is truly criminal activity.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my good friend for his edification and certainly providing a better understanding for our colleagues on this important issue.

I also want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New Mexico, not only for his initiative but for his leadership in bringing this resolution for the Members to discuss. And I certainly would like to emphasize again that we need to support and to pass this legislation to send a clear message to the Chinese Government that this is not acceptable and we should do this at all costs.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 157 which sheds light on the prisoners of conscience being held by the Chinese Government. These peaceful prisoners' only crimes were to speak out against the Chinese occupation of their homeland in Tibet. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Mr. UDALL for bringing this ongoing matter to the floor of this body. We can not ignore the plight of the Tibetan people while giving tacit support to the Chinese Government.

One of the great marks of our Nation has been as a protector of human rights throughout the world. I recognize we may not be able to stop all international violations of human rights, but we certainly can not look the other way as the world's most populous nation blatantly occupies a peaceful country. For more than 50 years the Chinese Government has imposed its will on the people of Tibet. The Tibetan people have been unable to enjoy even the most basic rights under this Chinese occupation. Tibet had existed as a sovereign nation distinct from Chinese identity for over a thousand years. It was a nation that gave birth to the Buddhist faith and acted as the spiritual center for many people throughout the world. Now the people of Tibet can not even practice their own faith without fear of persecution. If we say we value human rights even a little bit how can we allow this deliberate oppression to continue?

The prisoners of conscience being discussed in this resolution are a prime example of the kind of injustice that is inflicted on the peaceful Tibetan people. On October 14, 1989, Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan Buddhist nun, and 5 other nuns from the Michungri Nunnery were arrested in Lhasa after chanting some slogans and marching in a procession as part of a peaceful demonstration that they organized to protest the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Their only real crime being that they believed they had the right to expression. Their only expression being their belief that Tibet deserved not to be occupied. Again I ask, how can we allow ourselves as a body to look the other way while this oppression continues to take place? Even in our darkest days as a nation we allowed the freedom of protest as long as it was peaceful. In the face of brutal oppression the Tibetan people have been nothing if not peaceful. So many Tibetans including the Dalai Lama have been forced in to exile, and still their message is one of peace.

These brave people of Tibet pose no physical threat to China; instead it is their stoic resoluteness to obtain their rights that frightens the Chinese Government.

Phuntsog Nyidron is the latest in the line of Tibetan leaders who have been imprisoned simply because they dared to voice their opposition to the Chinese occupation of their homeland. Let's not forget that Ms. Nyidron and those who were arrested with her were nuns. Since when have nuns become such a great threat to a government that they must be thrown in to prison and tortured? Since 1989 Ms. Nyidron has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment in the notorious Drapchi Prison which houses all female political prisoners. In 1993 Ms. Nyidron had her sentence extended to seventeen years simply because she and thirteen other nuns had secretly recorded songs about Tibetan independence and smuggled the recordings out of Drapchi prison. Once again I ask, where is the great threat to the Chinese government that requires a peaceful nun to be imprisoned for seventeen years? We now know that there are profound concerns for Ms. Nyidron's health as she is known to have liver, stomach and kidney problems which have no doubt been exacerbated by her brutal treatment in prison. It seems likely that the Chinese Government will be more than content to allow her to die in prison. The point of her imprisonment is not to eliminate a dangerous or threatening person, but instead to send a message to every other Tibetan that not only must they suffer Chinese occupation, but that they must do so in silence. This, Mr. Speaker, is unacceptable.

I call on every Member of this body to support this resolution. Let us send a message to every Tibetan who lives in fear that they have an ally in their struggle for their rights. Let us also send a message to the Chinese Government that the United States of America still holds the banner as the international protector of human rights and that we will not turn a blind eye to the open and vicious oppression of the Tibetan people. For more than fifty years they have endured this occupation with great dignity and an enduring faith. They are a living testament to the fact that brutality cannot crush the spirit of even the most oppressed people. I ask the Chinese people to come to the aid of these great human rights proponents. I hope the Chinese government will see fit to listen. I look forward to that dialogue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 157, calling on the government of the People's Republic of China to release all prisoners of conscience, including Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan nun who is currently the longest serving Tibetan political prisoner in China.

We know that the brutal regime in China has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns, monks, and laypersons for speaking out against the Chinese occupation of Tibet. In the last session of Congress, I sponsored a resolution calling on the PRC to release the Panchen Lama, who is held in high esteem in Tibetan culture as the teacher of the Dalai Lama. The Panchen Lama was abducted nearly 10 years ago at age 5. Today, his whereabouts remains unknown.

This regime has been and continues to be relentless in squelching the voices of peaceful dissident. However, even in prison, these voices have been heard. In 1993 Phuntsog

Nyidron and 13 other nuns sang and recorded songs about the plight of the Tibetan people that were smuggled out of Draphci prison, inspiring those working for peaceful change. Her prison sentence was extended for 8 years because of the recording. In 1998 it was reported that she was badly beaten after trying to protect another prisoner and that she is in poor health.

Phuntsog Nyidron is a peaceful advocate for change who should be released immediately along with the hundreds of other of prisoners of conscience in China. Although we lack specific information on each case, we know that many other Tibetans are mistreated in Chinese prisons as well. Even though China ratified the U.N. Convention against Torture in 1988, it has been reported that more than 70 Tibetans have died as a direct result of torture and inhumane treatment in Chinese prisons.

We must not forget the many other ethnic and religious groups and political dissident persecuted in the PRC today. Serious human rights abuses are carried out against the Falun Gong, Uighur Muslims, Protestants, and Catholics are well documented in State Department Reports on Human Rights and Religious Freedom.

We know that opponents of the regime continue to be unjustly imprisoned and that women continue to be subject to forced abortions. We also know that the government continues to violate international law through forcibly deporting thousands of North Koreans, many of whom are subsequently placed and concentration camps where they face persecution and death.

As both our administration and other world leaders prepare for the annual U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, I along with many of my colleagues, strongly believe that a strong resolution on human rights in China should be introduced and passed. Given continued and systematic human rights abuses carried out by the regime, anything less would be simply inexcusable.

I strongly urge my colleagues to strongly support passage of this resolution. I call upon the regime in Beijing to release Phuntsog Nyidron and the hundreds of others of political prisoners languishing in China's prisons. And I strongly urge our Administration and other governments to work towards the introduction and passage of a human rights resolution in Geneva.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 157, which urges the Chinese Government to release all prisoners held for exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, belief, or association.

Thank you, Congressman TOM UDALL for taking the lead in introducing this resolution and for all of your efforts for the people of Tibet. I am proud to be a co-sponsor.

The Chinese Government continues to impose severely repressive measures against any display of support for an independent Tibet. We know the facts. The State Department's Annual Country Report on Human Rights states "... [Chinese] authorities continued to commit serious human rights abuses, including instances of torture, arbitrary arrest, detention without public trial, and lengthy detention of Tibetan nationalists for peacefully expressing their political or religious views."

We know that more than 1 million Tibetans have died under the Chinese occupation.

More than 6,000 monasteries and irreplaceable jewels of Tibetan culture have been destroyed. Tibetans are routinely imprisoned and tortured for non-violently expressing their views. Beatings, prolonged exposure to extreme heat and cold, electroshock, sleep and food deprivation and forced labor are among the techniques used to torture Tibetan political prisoners.

Since China's 1988 ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, more than 70 Tibetans have died as a direct result of torture and inhumane treatment in Chinese prisons in Tibet. Hundreds of Tibetans are currently in prison for peaceful expressions of political or religious belief. I would like to mention a few of these brave individuals.

PHUNTSOG NYIDRON

Phuntsog Nyidron is a nun from outside Lhasa. She has been in prison for 16 years. On October 14, 1989, she participated in a peaceful demonstration to protest China's occupation of Tibet. During the arrest, she and other nuns were subjected to beatings with iron rods, kicks, and punches. She is now the longest serving female Tibetan political prisoner. She is reportedly in poor health and is suffering from a respiratory ailment and severe internal problems.

THE DRAPCHI 14: "SINGING NUNS"

While in a Chinese prison for political crimes in 1993, Phuntsog Nyidron and 13 other nuns secretly recorded songs proclaiming their love for their Tibetan homeland and their families. On the tape, each nun states her name and dedicates a song to her family and supporters.

The tapes were smuggled out of the prison and the recordings were circulated inside Tibet and around the world. These young women became known as the Drapchi 14 and the Singing Nuns.

TIBETAN REFUGEES SENT BACK TO TIBET

I am also concerned about Tibetan refugees sent back to China by the Government of Nepal. Last May, in close coordination with the Chinese Embassy, Nepal deported 18 Tibetan refugees who were seeking safe transit through Nepal. This violates the long-standing agreement that Nepal will turn over refugees to UNHCR to facilitate safe transit to the Tibetan exile community in India.

For many years, Nepal has worked cooperatively with UNHCR. They have earned a strong reputation for their humanitarian approach to Tibetan refugees. I am disturbed by the Government of Nepal's recent actions in violation of international and humanitarian norms. The prison conditions awaiting repatriated Tibetans are harsh. From first hand reports we have learned about the torture and maltreatment of the 18 Tibetans deported by Nepal. Unfortunately, the deportation of Tibetan refugees continues.

On January 9, Radio Free Asia reported on that 21 refugees were deported by Nepalese border security. On January 15, we have learned that three Tibetan refugees were handed over to Chinese border police by Nepalese officials.

We expect Nepal to adhere with its own written policy and turn over all Tibetan refugees to UNHCR. Today we are sending a clear message to the Government of Nepal—the U.S. Government is watching your actions closely.

CONCLUSION

The survival of the Tibetan identity is an issue of urgent U.S. and international concern.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues today to demand that the Chinese Government immediately release all prisoners of conscience in China and Tibet. As we honor the brave and heroic prisoners of conscience, we must heed the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He is a constant reminder that the crisis in Tibet is a challenge to the conscience of the world. Unless we are prepared to confront the Chinese Government on the issue of Tibet, we cannot be consistent when we talk about human rights in any other place in the world. We have not forgotten the people of Tibet in their struggle. We must and will continue our efforts.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 157.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2003

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2264) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendments:

Page 5, strike out all after line 23 over to and including line 11 on page 6, and insert:

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program \$18,600,000 for fiscal year 2004.

(b) *CARPE.*—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a), \$16,000,000 is authorized to be made available to the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) *AVAILABILITY.*—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership program, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2264.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2264 authorizes the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. This legislation is authored by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) and by myself. There are several additional cochairs present here. There are four of us as Members of this House who launched the Bipartisan International Conservation Caucus late last year: myself, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TURNER).

This bill passed the House unanimously last October. It was amended over in the Senate, and the Senate cut authorization from 2 years to 1 year. Although that is unfortunate, the bill is back from the Senate, and it is time to send this bill to the President's desk.

Let me give Members some observations on this measure. The tropical forests of Central Africa's Congo Basin are a key resource to an estimated 20 million people. These forests play a critical role in sustaining the environment of Africa. The Congo Basin contains the most diverse grouping of plants and animals in all of Africa, including rare and endangered species. These plants and animals are invaluable for many reasons, including their genetic and biochemical information. This information from these species could spark technical advances in medicine, in agriculture, and in industry that would benefit people throughout the world. But this is all threatened, and it is threatened because the Congo Basin forests are, under growing pressures, being clear-cut.

I thought I would just for a moment show the location of these forests in Africa: Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Cameroon, this area in Africa.

Ten years ago, the forests throughout this area were virtually untouched. Today logging operations are shrinking these forests at such a rate that one estimate has the logging taking out Congo Basin forest areas at a rate of twice the size of the State of Rhode Island every year. It is estimated continent-wide that Africa has lost at least 10 percent of its forested area in the last generation. Meanwhile, construction of logging roads is putting intense hunting pressure on the wildlife that exists there. At current levels, most species of apes, like the mountain

gorilla and the Eastern lowland gorilla, seen here, as well as the chimpanzee that exists in the Congo Basin, and the white rhino are threatened with extinction. In addition, the large antelope and elephants will disappear from the Congo Basin if action is not taken.

One of the actions that we have urged on the Subcommittee on Africa is the creation of a national parks system in this area of Africa. In 2002, Secretary of State Powell launched the Congo Basin Partnership. He made the announcement in Johannesburg. He traveled to Gabon, and he traveled through the rainforests at that time. The partnership focuses on 11 key landscapes that exist in these six countries. It aims to support a network of national parks, protected areas and well-managed forestry concessions. The partnership is working to combat illegal logging and poaching and other unsustainable practices, and to give local populations an economic stake in the preservation of the forests, including through the development of ecotourism which has great developmental potential for Africans. In fact, the second largest source of foreign exchange right now in Africa is ecotourism. So this is a true partnership with European and other countries making financial contributions into it.

I should recognize the country of Gabon for its dramatic move towards conserving Congo Basin forests. In 1992, President Omar Bongo announced the creation of 13 national parks. Previously, Gabon had no national park system. Since this legislation passed the House last October, President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo has announced his intention to increase protected area coverage to 15 percent of that vast country which has long been attacked for its natural resources. There are militias that have plundered natural resources in that country.

How vast is the Democratic Republic of Congo; it is as large as the country of the United States east of the Mississippi River. So when national park systems are being set up that are 15 percent of that territory, Members can understand how vast it is going to be.

Across the river is the Republic of Congo, and they have begun an experiment of privately run forests aimed at better managing forest assets. So there is a real African buy-in to this partnership, with six African countries setting up this vast national forest system. The Subcommittee on Africa that I chair held a hearing on the initiative last year. Testifying before us was world-renowned ecologist Michael Faye. Michael has traversed many of Africa's forests, especially in the Congo Basin, and he has had several 400-day treks. Many have read about these walks across Africa in the National Geographic.

This legislation supports conservation efforts by him and others. Conservation is not easy. What Americans take for granted, Yosemite and Yellow-

stone and our park system, that took great foresight and political commitment to make that a reality. Over 100 years ago we led the world here in the United States, and it will be a major challenge to establish and maintain effective regimes to control logging and hunting in the Congo Basin. But with the partnership, the United States is bringing its unique experience and talents to these efforts. In fact, through the partnership, the U.S. National Park Service plans to bring park managers and rangers from Gabon and other countries to the United States to train in our great national parks. That is one of many efforts that will be undertaken under this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for his management of this legislation. I also want to convey my thanks to the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) the ranking member, for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) alluded to earlier, this is a bipartisan effort on the part of himself, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TURNER), and the leadership of our committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Congo River and its tributaries make up the most extensive network of navigable waterways in Africa, and carry a volume of water second only to the Amazon River. In addition to being a major ecological region in Africa, it is the home to some of the world's poorest people. Throughout Central Africa, poverty rates are among the highest in the world. The actual prevalence of HIV-AIDS is unknown, but we know that poverty and war are the breeding ground for the rapid spread of diseases.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a unique opportunity to help the people of Central Africa to turn their biggest asset, the natural resources of the Congo River Basin, into a viable economic base. Conservation programs will help preserve natural areas and create jobs. The stewardship of the Congo Basin is the joint responsibility of Central African countries and the international community, including our Nation. Together we must end the deforestation and wildlife depletion, and support the appropriate use of the Congo River Basin forest resources.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the fine presentation that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) gave as to the importance of this bill that is before us.

I was privileged to have introduced the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), to authorize funding for the Congo Basin Partnership fund. The partnership strives to preserve and protect millions of acres of land in Africa by establishing a network of national parks. The partnership is focused on 11 key landscapes in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. I have traveled to Africa on numerous occasions, and I have had the experience of seeing the immense beauty and wonder that this continent holds. And I have also witnessed how the poaching and clear-cutting of forests devastates the people, the land, and the wildlife of Africa.

One of America's greatest assets is our national parks and conservation systems. I can think of no better way to help Africa and the African people than to provide them with the tools to conserve their great continent, just as we do in our national parks. Conservation efforts through the partnership not only provide protection for lands and wildlife, but also provide critical means for human development, political stability, and economic growth in Africa, areas that remain tremendously important to the success and to the future of Africa.

□ 1530

This initiative has received widespread support, as the gentleman just pointed out, from Democrats, Republicans and leading organizations, including Conservation International, the World Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund.

I urge Members to support this most important bill. This bill perhaps is not on the top of the list of too many Members of Congress, but I had the privilege of traveling there with my wife in the company of Michael Fay and David Barron and going up the Congo River, traveling by airplane, by piro, by pick-up truck, and then piro again and walking into an area by foot with the assistance of some wonderful Pygmy people and being able to watch and actually view these magnificent creatures, the silverback gorillas which are pictured on that easel. Would it not be a poor commentary on humans of this planet if we were responsible for the extinction of the animal most closely related to us as humans? It would absolutely be an indictment, I think, of what we are doing. As was properly pointed out, Gabon has made strides in this area. I did go down and meet with President Bongo in Gabon and have discussed and have had the opportunity

to view some of the wildlife area in that wonderful country.

This is terribly important to the future of the globe. Africa is very much a part of the future of the globe. We see the indiscriminate destruction of the habitat by clear-cutting. These profits are going to Indonesia, France, Japan and other countries that are harboring the companies that are buying the logging rights and then destroying the future of this place. I have seen parts of gorillas hanging in marketplaces for sale as a delicacy. I know firsthand where these magnificent animals are actually used for camp meat by the loggers. Even though it is illegal, they still do it with absolute immunity.

This is a good step but it is only a first step. I think that we need to do more and more and figure out ways that we can attach Federal aid to the preservation of forests throughout the continent of Africa. The environment and ecotourism is the future of Africa in a very large way, and to preserve that will preserve Africa for the world and for the American people.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), one of our Nation's leading advocates of conservation and the environment.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I thank the gentleman from American Samoa for those very warm comments.

Mr. Speaker, let me at the outset thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) for his sponsorship of this bill. There is no doubt that as a cochair of the International Conservation Caucus he has been a real leader in these international forestry issues. His leadership and hard work, I think, are appreciated by all. As we can see, he feels very passionately about these issues as does the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE). I think this is just a great example of how we can work together as Democrats and Republicans to help the rest of the world to move along to a good, solid path of economic development while at the same time sustaining their resources. That is the reason I rise today in support of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act. This is an outstanding new initiative that was spawned from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. This program, which includes individuals and organizations across the board—governments, international advocacy groups, NGOs and industries—uses public-private partnerships to enhance the welfare of the Congo Basin Forest.

There is no doubt that the Congo Basin Forest has a significant impact on the global community. Its rich wildlife population contributes significantly to the economic and environmental health in the region. The value of wilderness and biologically diverse areas such as the Congo Basin is im-

measurable. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership works to enhance sustainable development in the region, improve ecotourism practices and prevent harmful activities such as illegal poaching and logging which the sponsor has so eloquently spoken about.

The model offered by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership is one which I believe we can all learn from. The lessons that will come out of this intricate collaboration will serve as a model for local conservation and sustainability issues here in the U.S. I am pleased that the U.S. State Department has made conservation of the Congo Basin Forest a priority. A recent trip with the International Conservation Caucus has highlighted for me the need to take additional bold actions around the world and especially in Africa to preserve the globe's natural resources.

As a cochairman of the House International Conservation Caucus, I would like to thank those in the international community who have spent significant time promoting sustainable development. I would also like to thank my cochairs, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), for their diligent work in the Congress on these conservation issues. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I again want to compliment the remarks made by my good friend the gentleman from Florida. I certainly appreciate his insight and understanding of this important environmental issue.

There are some 900 million people that live on this continent of Africa, Mr. Speaker. There is a tremendous diversity in cultures of the peoples, even governments. Some governments may not be necessarily stable but the fact of the matter is there is no question that whatever happens in Africa does have very serious implications to our world community. I sincerely hope that our colleagues will support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I again thank my good friend from New Mexico for his leadership and support in providing all the necessary understanding to my colleagues of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that unfortunately Africa is not the only continent under attack. Increasingly, we are seeing the link between resource exploitation, human rights abuses, conflict and corruption. A report by Global Witness last year details how the ruling military junta in Burma is using logging concessions to help maintain its grip on power. In Burma's environmentally damaging resource diplomacy, Chinese logging

companies are granted concessions to large sections of Burmese virgin forest in exchange for political loyalty and material support. In light of this sort of activity, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and similar initiatives are all that much more important. I urge my colleagues to support this initiative.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 2264, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003. This bill authorizes U.S. participation in the Congo Basin Partnership (CBFP) that aims to protect 11 key landscapes of more than 30 national parks and thousands of square miles across six countries in central Africa.

The wilderness of the Congo Basin is in a desperate state after years of civil strife, extensive refugee crises, and exploitive logging. These activities have devastated sections of this critical rainforest and have left local people in abject poverty and dependent on unsustainable resource management practices. This bill will authorize the President to appropriate FY 2004 and 2005 funds to the CBFP program. The funding that it promises will allow important goals to be fulfilled: to promote economic development, alleviate poverty, improve the local system of governance, and conserve natural resources through support for a network of national parks and protected areas, well-managed forestry concessions, and assistance to communities that depend on the conservation of the outstanding forest and wildlife resources of eleven key landscapes in six Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo).

Increased funds of up to \$36 million and a funding scheme of up to \$53 million up to 2005 for the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) program will allow for the conservation of very precious forest land and the preservation of wildlife that form an important symbiotic relationship.

I particularly applaud CBFP's ability to bring together nations such as Canada, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom—especially in light of our task of standardizing emergency responsiveness on an international level. Also participating in this program are organizations such as the World Bank and the World Conservation Union, NGOs and private sector groups such as the World Wildlife Fund, the World Resources Institute and the Centre for International Forestry Research.

The forestland provides sustenance for a myriad of plant and animal species. They sustain our environment by absorbing carbon dioxide, by cleansing the water, or by holding the soil. Our sources of lumber crops, forests, and tourism play a vital role in our economies. In the last decade, tropical forests have disappeared every year at an average rate of 35 million acres, an area the size of Barbados. The Congo Basin contains a quarter of the world's tropical forest. However, the Forest is being destroyed at a rate of two million acres per year.

H.R. 2264 is a legislative remedy to the crisis that is occurring in the Congo Basin. Therefore, I support its passage, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2264, the Congo Basin Forest

Partnership Act, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of it. I want to thank Secretary of State Colin Powell, Congressman CLAY SHAW and all cosponsoring members of Congress for making the preservation of the Congo River Basin a priority.

While it is unfortunate that the other body cut the authorization of funds for fiscal year 2005 for this initiative, the \$18.6 million for 2004 will send a strong signal for the need for U.S. investment to preserve the Congo River Basin. The Congo River and its tributaries make up the most extensive network of navigable waterways in Africa and carry a volume of water second only to the Amazon River.

Some of us think first of the Congo River Basin as one of the largest and more important ecological regions of the world, which it is. But, what is more important, it is the home to some of the world's poorest people who have suffered some of Africa's bloodiest conflicts. More than two and a half million people have perished in Eastern Congo as a result of the most recent Congo civil war, with millions left displaced and in unimaginable destitution. Throughout the central African region, poverty rates are among the lowest in the world. Life expectancy ranges from 42 years in the Central Africa Republic to 52 in the Congo Republic.

The overall forest area of the Congo River Basin is declining rapidly as a result of the unchecked growth of timber exports, destructive agricultural expansion, and fuel wood demand for a growing population. These practices are unsustainable if the assets of the Congo River Basin are to be used to improve and sustain the lives of the people who live there.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a unique opportunity to help the people of Central Africa turn their biggest asset—the natural resources of the Congo River Basin—into a viable economic base. The Congo River Basin Partnership is an economic development and conservation program for the six countries of Central Africa. The partnership will combine the preservation of some of the world's richest and most pristine ecosystems with economic development in order to alleviate poverty throughout the region.

Conservation programs will help develop a network of national parks and protected areas, and help local communities better manage the forest and wildlife. People of Central Africa, some of whom live on less than 25-cents per day, will be able to develop sustainable means of livelihood through conservation agriculture and integrated ecotourism programs.

Mr. Speaker, with substantial international efforts, the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo that engulfed the region has come to an end. The Congolese and other nations in the region are disarming and demobilizing armed groups, planning for national elections, and embracing the rule of law. This is the beginning of a new beginning for post-colonial Central Africa. The politics of the Cold War failed the region, the post-Cold War neglect turned Central Africa into a human disaster. We don't know how long it will take to establish a stable region in the heart of Africa, but we do know we must start.

Mr. Chairman, the Congo River Basin Initiative has created a window of opportunity to help the people of Central Africa rebuild their communities, establish local economies, and bring health care and other resources to their countries. This initiative will help demonstrate

that the stewardship of the Congo River Basin is the joint responsibility of Central African countries and the international community. It is important to note that the first international meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership met in Paris in January of this year to launch a strong effort for international cooperation to preserve the Congo River Basin.

Together, we must end the deforestation and wildlife depletion and support the appropriate use of forest resources. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of its passage.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2264.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 93D BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 84) recognizing the 93d birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 84

Whereas February 6, 2004, is the 93d birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is the first former President ever to attain the age of 93;

Whereas both Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community;

Whereas Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;

Whereas Ronald Reagan fulfilled his pledge to help restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism" and ensure renewed economic prosperity;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a world divided by the Cold War;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;

Whereas the recent tragic loss of the space shuttle Columbia and her crew remind us of how, 18 years ago, Ronald Reagan's eloquence helped heal the Nation after the Challenger disaster;

Whereas Nancy Reagan not only served as a gracious First Lady but also led a national crusade against illegal drug use;

Whereas, together Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, extends its

birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan on his 93d birthday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the joint resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Joint Resolution 84, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), recognizes the 93rd birthday of President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan, turns 93 years of age this Friday, February 6. He will become the first former President to reach the age of 93. While longevity is one aspect of President Reagan's life, he deserves our praise and recognition for so many more momentous accomplishments. This resolution aims to honor the man who led America during the prosperous 1980s, and I am pleased that this House has taken the time to consider it today. During his presidency, President Reagan revived the American spirit and helped all Americans become less reliant on government. From gracefully bouncing back from a would-be assassin's attack, to helping a grief-stricken Nation cope with the *Challenger* tragedy, and from leading the U.S. to a decisive victory in the war on communism, to creating 20 million new jobs, President Reagan's legacy in the White House is one of the most legendary in American history.

Mr. Speaker, we have several Members here today who may want to speak on behalf of President Reagan but I want to briefly offer one perspective of President Reagan's record. Everyone knows that one of President Reagan's top domestic objectives during his presidency was returning much of Americans' hard-earned dollars by reducing income tax rates. But what many do not realize was that these tax cuts did not occur at the expense of vital government social priorities during the 1980s. The percentage of the gross national product spent on social welfare programs steadily rose during the 1960s and 1970s to 11.5 percent in 1980, the final year of President Jimmy Carter's administration. But over the next 8 years while President Reagan resided in the White House, Federal social spending remained between 10.9 and 12 percent. So I think we can safely say that President Reagan truly was, to borrow a phrase from our current President, a compassionate conservative. During the week of his 93rd birthday, I think it is important that we remember this reality.

President Reagan reinforced this point during his first inaugural address on January 20, 1981, when he said, "It is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work, work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it." I think all Members can agree with these sentiments, and I also believe that President Reagan accomplished these worthy goals during his two terms in the White House.

I thank the gentleman from Nevada for introducing this measure that allows this Chamber to recall President Reagan's extraordinary contributions to the United States of America. We wish President Reagan a very happy 93rd birthday and, to his family, our love and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a bigger-than-life screen actor and television personality, Ronald Reagan moved from being governor of California in the 1960s to President of the United States and dominating American politics in the 1980s. Media-made and media-presented, President Reagan got millions of Americans to feel proud of their Nation. America's 40-year Cold War with the Soviet Union cooled considerably and perhaps actually ended during Reagan's presidency. Many Americans credit him with having achieved that significant outcome.

Born the son of a shoe salesman in small-town Illinois, Reagan's impoverished but loving parents instilled in the lad a sense of optimism that carried him through college as an average student. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a sports broadcaster in midwestern radio before landing a film contract with Warner Brothers which took him to Hollywood in 1936. Over the next 30 years, he made scores of films, including Army films produced during World War II. He hosted two popular television series, and he actively engaged in politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild.

□ 1545

In the 1950s, Reagan changed from being a Roosevelt New Deal Democrat to a conservative Republican. In 1966, he became Governor of California. He was reelected in 1970.

Using his popularity in California, Reagan unsuccessfully challenged President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination in 1976. He tried again and won the nomination in 1980, and thereafter defeated the incumbent Democrat, Jimmy Carter. With his 1984 reelection victory, President Reagan became the most politically successful Republican President since Eisenhower.

Today, we celebrate former President of the United States Ronald Reagan's

93rd birthday. We wish him the best, and recognize the contribution that he made to the development of these United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and thank him for introducing this resolution.

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague from Connecticut for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. J. Res. 84, which I introduced to commemorate former President Ronald Reagan's 93rd birthday. It is a pleasure to join my colleagues here today, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) in honoring the birthday and life of an extraordinary man, historic leader and an American icon.

As we look back on the life and Presidency of Ronald Reagan, it is always a challenge to pinpoint a single greatest achievement from his many great achievements. His life has been filled with extraordinary adventures and monumental accomplishments.

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, the "Land of Lincoln." President Reagan's lifelong career of service to fellow Americans began at a young age when he served as a lifeguard in Dixon, Illinois. Later, as a fledgling radio sports announcer, Reagan traveled from his home in the Midwest to Southern California, where he embarked upon an acting career in Hollywood. He would soon rise to serve his fellow actors as president of the Screen Actors Guild. Reagan's leadership style and keen knack for engaging the public through his dynamic speaking skills and endearing nature provided him the additional opportunity to enter public service.

He would serve as Governor of California for two terms before being elected President of the United States twice. During his 8 years in the White House, President Reagan worked to fulfill his pledge to restore "the great confident roar of American progress, growth and optimism."

President Reagan's commitment to inspiring the American people and strengthening our Nation's leadership role in the world are part of our Nation's proud heritage and history.

Of course, when it comes to recognizing a distinguished leader such as Ronald Reagan, it is difficult to find words to adequately express how deeply his legacy still affects each and every one of us still today. During his 8 years as President, Ronald Reagan successfully stimulated economic

growth, curbed inflation, increased employment, and strengthened national defense.

President Reagan was instrumental in uniting a divided Berlin, as well as a divided world, by bringing about an end to the Cold War. Reagan's speech calling on Mr. Gorbachev to "Tear Down This Wall" is a piece of American, indeed, world history, that will forever elicit a special sense of pride among the American people and all freedom-loving people across this world.

Throughout his tenure in the office of President, Mr. Reagan maintained a unique grace and uncanny wit. These endearing qualities enabled him to easily communicate with American citizens, foreign dignitaries and public figures, meriting him the historic title as the "Great Communicator."

Railroad Ronald Reagan's renowned wit, firm dedication to American principles and tireless belief in our "shining city on the hill" secured Reagan's enduring legacy. President Reagan will forever be remembered for his eternal optimism and faith in the ability of the American people.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express what an honor it has been for me to take the lead in sponsoring this resolution. I would like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues, over 100 of them, who have cosponsored this measure to recognize one of the greatest leaders this Nation has ever known.

Happy birthday, President Reagan. As always, the thoughts and heartfelt sentiments of this Congress are with you.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his 93rd birthday and to pass along the thoughts and prayers of the people of the Second District of Kentucky to the President and Mrs. Reagan on this special day.

President Reagan has dedicated much of his life to public service. From the summer shores of his Illinois hometown, to the silver screens of Hollywood, to Sacramento, Washington, D.C., and now to his historic and heroic battle with Alzheimer's disease, Ronald Reagan's vision and competent leadership continues to inspire national spirit, improve quality of life in the United States and extend freedom and democracy across the globe.

During his inaugural address in 1981, President Reagan remarked, "We are too great a Nation to limit ourselves to a small dream." His dream of family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom embodied the hopes of millions of Americans, shepherding the Nation into economic recovery and renewed national pride, while demonstrating an uncompromising moral leadership abroad that brought communism to its knees.

His is an exemplary life, uniquely American and worthy of the love and

admiration of so many men and women across the world.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring a man who will forever remain a symbol of the American dream.

I had the great good fortune and high honor to serve as military aide to President Reagan during my time in the United States Marine Corps. As the officer assigned to carry the "nuclear football," I had the opportunity to observe the President in a wide variety of situations.

Ronald Reagan was already well known before he entered the Presidential field. Through a variety of careers, his thoughtful, caring nature and engaging personality were well established. Friends and colleagues alike recognized him as gifted, some would say the "great communicator," who was as accomplished a listener as he was a speaker. Strong in character and always quick with a joke, the best joke teller I ever knew, candidate Reagan, Governor Reagan, earned the allegiance, trust, and respect of a Nation and was elected as our 40th President.

What struck me almost immediately when I began my service to President Reagan was the strong sense of leadership he exuded. Perhaps more than any other leader in contemporary history, President Reagan knew when to trust his staff and when not to allow his beliefs to be swayed. On routine matters, President Reagan displayed enormous confidence in his staff, I am proud to say, including me. When told, for example, "Mr. President, please stand here," he agreed affably. On matters of substance, however, he was guided by unwavering principle and would not be moved.

President Ronald Reagan applied this principle to the many challenges he faced. The economic policy of Reaganomics was met with initial skepticism and scorn, but its success validated his vision of how to address the faltering economy he inherited.

In international matters, his unflinching opposition to communism led to its demise and earned the enduring allegiance of former adversaries. This principled vision inspired men and women of all political persuasions to put the best interest of our Nation ahead of their respective political parties. By holding to his vision of America as a beacon for the rest of the world, he brought freedom, hope and opportunity to millions here and abroad.

Today we honor President Reagan for his achievement, his leadership and his enduring example. Happy birthday, Mr. President, and thank you.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a true

American patriot on his 93rd Birthday, President Ronald Reagan. As we in Congress move forth with reviewing the president's FY 2005 budget, I recall the words of Ronald Reagan when he submitted his presidential budget. He said,

"Government has an important role in helping develop a country's economic foundation. But the critical test is whether government is genuinely working to liberate individuals by creating incentives to work, save, invest, and succeed. We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much."

Mr. Speaker, as we debate on the proper amount of funding for securing our nation, the greatest tribute we can pay to Ronald Reagan is to develop a budget that allows our children and grandchildren to live in a prosperous economy. For the American people, it was his leadership in economic policy that restored hope for the future.

Thank you Mr. President for your inspiration and leadership which continues to guide our nation and which will help us to protect our freedoms and liberties in the twenty-first century. May you have a wonderful birthday and God bless.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely do wish former President Reagan and his wife well on his birthday, and my thoughts and prayers are with them as he deals with the terrible disease of Alzheimer's; however, the resolution went well beyond a simple birthday wish. I could not in good faith cast a vote for a bill that stated that the Reagan Administration ensured renewed economic prosperity when millions of Americans were hurt by its economic policies and the Federal government incurred massive deficit spending.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res 84.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING JOHN STOCKTON

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 274) honoring John Stockton for an outstanding career, congratulating him on his retirement,

and thanking him for his contributions to basketball, to the State of Utah, and to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 274

Whereas John Stockton is the all-time leader in assists in the history of the National Basketball Association;

Whereas Stockton ranks among the top point guards in basketball and was selected in 1996 as one of the "50 Greatest Players in National Basketball Association History";

Whereas Stockton is the league's all-time leader in steals, ending his career with an incredible 3,265 steals;

Whereas Stockton loyally played all 19 of his NBA seasons with the Utah Jazz in an era dominated by free agency and propelled his team to the NBA playoffs during each of those years;

Whereas Stockton won two gold medals as a member of the United States men's basketball "Dream Team" in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta;

Whereas Stockton has been a perennial All-Star, All-NBA selection, and has made the NBA All-Defensive Team three times;

Whereas Stockton's commitment to being part of a team made him successful both on the court and off as a dedicated husband to his wife, Nada, and father to his six children;

Whereas Stockton's sportsmanship and commitment to basketball made him a hero to millions of Americans, especially those in his dual hometowns, Salt Lake City, Utah and Spokane, Washington;

Whereas Stockton had a reputation as a true team player who brought out the best in his teammates; and

Whereas, on June 7, 2003, tens of thousands of fans attended a retirement celebration in Salt Lake City, Utah: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors John Stockton for an outstanding career;

(2) congratulates John Stockton on his retirement; and

(3) thanks John Stockton for his contributions to basketball, to the State of Utah, and to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 274.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 274 honors John Stockton for a truly outstanding career and congratulates him on his retirement.

This body generally spends very little time honoring basketball players, but today we honor a player who truly deserves extra commemoration.

When he retired last summer from the National Basketball Association's Utah Jazz, John Stockton finished his career as the league's all time leader in

both assists and steals. Astonishingly, he totaled 15,806 assists and 3,265 steals during his Hall of Fame-caliber career. He was a 10-time NBA All Star and a member of the first and second "Dream Teams," the gold medal-winning 1992 and 1996 U.S. Olympic men's basketball teams.

Stockton played 19 years for the Utah Jazz, which is also an all-time NBA record for most years played for one franchise. Even more remarkable than his longevity and loyalty, he helped lead the Jazz into the playoffs following every one of his 19 NBA seasons.

Along with his record of most overall assists, 15,806, Stockton holds the record for most assists in a season, 1,164, and the highest assist average in a season, 14.5 per game. He is second all-time to Magic Johnson in assists per game during a career with 10.5. He once distributed 28 assists in one game. In a 48-minute ball game, that is nearly unthinkable. In comparison, the current NBA leader in assists averages under 10 per game.

As I mentioned, Stockton is also the NBA's all-time leader in steals with 3,265. He recorded over 700 more steals during his NBA tenure than the second place player had, a gentleman by the name of Michael Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this House to congratulate one of the NBA's most outstanding players ever, John Stockton, on the occasion of his retirement from the NBA, and I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for his work to honor John Stockton.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when John Stockton broke the career record for assists, 9,922, the owner of his team, the Utah Jazz, suggested he should set his career goal at 15,000. Such an idea was laughable, even preposterous to some. John Stockton, though, retired at the end of the 2002 and 2003 season with 15,806 career assists.

Success in American professional sports is often defined by statistics. Mr. Stockton is a match for anyone. In addition to being the NBA's all-time leader in assists with more than 50 percent more than the next highest player, Stockton also holds the league record for steals in a career with more than 3,200.

□ 1600

He is a 10-time all star and was selected as one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

What sets John Stockton apart from most athletes, however, is his sense of team. Mr. Stockton played for 19 seasons. And due in large part to his excellence, the Jazz made the playoffs in every one of those seasons. He is a two-time Olympic gold medalist. No player spent as many years in games with only one team. And, remember, those

15,000 assists means 15,000 easy baskets for his teammates. That is not bad, especially since Stockton was considered too small to succeed when he was drafted out of Gonzaga in 1984.

John Stockton is such a consummate team player that it is almost impossible to talk about him without also mentioning Karl Malone, Stockton's teammate and partner for 18 seasons. Malone's status as the NBA's second all-time leading scorer is directly attributable to the thousands of passes Stockton threw him over the years. In June, when Stockton retired, Malone gave this testimonial to his teammate, and I quote: "I hope and I pray people here realize a couple of things," said Malone. "There absolutely, positively will never, ever be another John Stockton. Ever. He gave me more than I gave him."

Stockton is also a family man, a father of six. He is the sort of man who once signed a contract for millions less than he would have received on the open market so that he could secure ice time at Salt Lake City's Delta Center for his 7-year-old son's hockey team. In an era when far too many athletes and other public figures put selfish motives and personal glory foremost in their actions, a consummate teammate, unselfish player, and quiet superstar like John Stockton is well deserving of this resolution in his honor. He is indeed a role model to be emulated by others along the way.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), who is the sponsor of this resolution, had wanted to be here but, unfortunately, could not get back in time to speak, so, Mr. Speaker, he will submit his statement into the RECORD at the appropriate point.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my two colleagues, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for introducing this resolution and the dean of our delegation (Mr. CANNON), for working with the majority leadership for the timing and the scheduling of this particular resolution.

I do not intend to pretend that I was a close personal friend of the Stocktons, but I did have several occasions to be with them, usually on public occasions. The one that I remember the clearest was sharing the owner's box at the opening game of the new triple A baseball stadium that we have in Salt Lake City. At that time, Mr. Stockton was there with his wife and his young family. One of the reporters from the Salt Lake paper came up and begged for a picture of the entire family to use on the society page for the beginning of this baseball season. John Stockton refused. He refused to have a picture of his family, his wife and his little kids there, because he did not want to expose his family to the kind of publicity that goes along with professional

sports and professional athletes. I was impressed with that.

The second thing about that entire evening that I was impressed with, that even though I thought it was a wonderful baseball game, as all baseball games are, even though it was fascinating, when it hit a certain time, even though there were still three innings to go, he insisted on leaving because it was bedtime for his three kids, and the most important thing for him was not his public persona, but that his family had a commitment. I was impressed with that.

It is difficult or unusual at any time to have any kind of honor for John Stockton without mentioning Karl Malone along with it, but in this case I think we will have to wait until Mr. Malone retires until that honor continues on, and then we will probably have to share that with most of the California delegation at the same time.

But on the retirement of John Stockton, I am proud of him because he established those old-fashioned values of hard work and commitment to family ahead of himself, a commitment to others ahead of himself, which is why he is the all-time assist leader. And it shows the personality that this gentleman has, and what he has done as a symbol and also as somebody we can emulate in the State of Utah. We appreciate his efforts on behalf of the Utah Jazz, especially what he has done as a symbol of a sports figure who does everything right, and his commitment to bringing standards of personal integrity to the world of athletics. I appreciate this opportunity to just voice my support of this particular resolution for a fine gentleman.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). I do not know why a gentleman from North Carolina wants to speak on this issue, so I am going to be waiting to hear his every word.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the nutmeg land of Connecticut for yielding me this time.

I am not sure how I became a fan, but I will say this: the words "Stockton to Malone" are synonymous words with winning basketball. And to watch those two guys play was not unlike, I say to the gentleman from Connecticut, watching a ballet. I mean Malone would haul down the rebound, dish off to Stockton, Stockton would very methodically and effectively move the ball into the front court and then, before you know it, the ball from Stockton back to Malone, and then Malone buried the shot. It was winning basketball, and it was unselfish basketball.

My good friend, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. Speaker, Senator ORRIN HATCH, knows that I am a Jazz fan. He said one day, HOWARD, I am going to get you out there as my guest. Well, it was not the Senator's fault, nor was it my fault, but we never got to go. Now, as a result of that, Malone has gone to another

team, and Stockton has retired. And when you procrastinate, I say to the gentleman from Connecticut, it comes back to bite you. It was no one's fault.

Finally, and I do not mean this to be a negative note, but many Jazz fans, including yours truly, believe that a no-call in a game that involved, I believe the Chicago Bulls and the Jazz, to what most Jazz fans conclude was an obvious foul, with which I am in agreement, but it was not called, the whistle did not sound. And I think the Bulls went on to win that game. Ugh, you are right; "ugh" is correct. And many Jazz fans to this day relive that no-call, as I do.

But what a great tribute to a great basketball player. My friend mentioned Stockton's many attributes. I think he is the all-time leader in steals and assists, destined for the Hall of Fame, I am sure. But I commend my colleagues for doing this resolution for John Stockton. I hope the gentleman from Connecticut now knows why I am a Jazz fan.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I do know. I was touched by the gentleman's comments. But I feel that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who yielded back time, may want to be yielded some time to talk about that no-call and explain what the heck happened, so I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) to explain how the Bulls won that game.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, what was happening is that the Bulls were moving so fast until the referee just could not see what was happening.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for explaining why that call was never made.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of John Stockton, one of the greatest basketball players in the history of the sport. I would like to thank the leadership and the committee for their consideration of this bipartisan resolution, which I had the honor of introducing along with my colleague from Washington, Mr. NETHERCUTT.

John Stockton and his nineteen years with the Utah Jazz are forever linked in the memories of countless fans, both in my home state of Utah and throughout the nation. Stockton's outstanding career and the example he set for young people in this country did us all proud.

When Stockton announced his retirement at the end of the 2002-2003 season, tens of thousands of fans attended a celebration in his honor at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City last June. Not only were they celebrating his achievements as a player, these fans turned out to thank John Stockton for his loyalty to the Utah Jazz in an era dominated by free agency.

As the all-time leader in assists in the NBA's history, John Stockton always put his team first. He was also the league's all-time leader in steals, ending his career with an amazing 3,265 steals and he was selected in 1996 as one of the 50 Greatest Players in National Basketball Association History.

John Stockton gave fans everywhere someone to emulate both on and off the basketball court, especially those in his dual hometowns,

Salt Lake City, Utah and Spokane, Washington. Stockton's commitment to his family, to the community, and to the states of Utah and Washington are to be commended and honored.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time and ask for a positive vote on this very important resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 274.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend section 220 of the National Housing Act to make a technical correction to restore allowable increases in the maximum mortgage limits for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing projects to cover increased costs of installing a solar energy system or residential energy conservation measures.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3724

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy Efficient Housing Technical Correction Act".

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 220(d)(3)(B)(iii)(V) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715k(d)(3)(B)(iii)(V)) is amended by striking "with respect to rehabilitation projects involving not more than five family units,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY), the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking members, for agreeing to bring our bill to the floor so expeditiously. I

also would like to thank my friend the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) for joining me in introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, during the 107th Congress, we passed the FHA Downpayment Simplification Act, which streamlined the downpayment process and increased the base mortgage amount limits for FHA-insured loans. By increasing access to these loans, Congress helped make the dream of owning a home a reality for many first-time homebuyers.

In passing this legislation, however, we made a seemingly inadvertent change to the law regarding what kind of residential projects qualify for increased loan payments. We restricted the projects that are eligible for increased loan limits to those which contain less than five units and take steps to improve energy efficiency.

Before the FHA Downpayment Simplification Act, this provision read that increased loan limits could be granted to projects that contained less than 5 units or are taking steps to improve energy efficiency. The net effect is large projects that want to employ energy-efficient measures are not eliminated from receiving FHA mortgage insurance.

The need for additional high-quality, affordable housing cannot be overstated. Our bill will correct the mistake and restore FHA mortgage insurance for large residential projects that are also energy efficient.

This is win-win legislation that will help stimulate construction of more responsibly built, affordable housing units, create jobs, and encourage investment, and it obviously is also environmentally responsible.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues for bringing this bill to the floor so quickly, and I encourage its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague and cosponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), in support of the Energy Efficient Housing Technical Correction Act.

This legislation will provide incentives for builders to include environmentally friendly additions to multi-family housing developments, by making projects eligible for 20 percent more FHA mortgage insurance. This is a noncontroversial, technical fix that corrects an oversight in the legislation enacted in the 107th Congress. This legislation is also included in the comprehensive energy bill where it received bipartisan, bicameral support.

Enactment of H.R. 3724 will allow increases in the maximum mortgage limits for FHA insurance for multi-family housing projects that choose to install solar energy systems or residential en-

ergy conservation measures. Currently, housing projects with five or fewer units are permitted FHA insurance in amounts up to 20 percent higher than the standard limit for the purpose of making environmental improvements. This legislation on the floor today allows multi-family developments with more than five units to be eligible for this same higher FHA coverage for environmental improvements. Higher FHA coverage was allowed for environmental improvements for multi-family housing prior to the 107th Congress when it was inadvertently deleted.

□ 1615

It only makes sense that projects with more than five units, where the environmental benefits are greater, should be eligible for the extra FHA insurance.

My colleagues who work on housing and environmental issues know that including solar energy systems and conservation measures can add significant building costs. This legislation will provide an important incentive for builders to make these additional investments that benefit their residents and communities as a whole.

It is my hope that this legislation will become law as soon as possible so that its benefits can begin to flow into the community. Whether Members represent urban, suburban or rural districts, I am certain that the benefits of this legislation will potentially be felt by many of our constituents.

Finally I want to thank the leadership of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and also my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for his work on this issue. It is my pleasure to work on many important environmental causes with him. And I appreciate his dedication to clean air, clean water, and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and urge a yes vote from my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY). We have worked on a number of issues together and it is always done very professionally. I am always proud to be by her side on legislation, and this is one example. I again thank our leadership on both sides of the aisle. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3724.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

PRIVILEGED REPORT REQUESTING DOCUMENTS IN POSSESSION OF THE PRESIDENT AND CERTAIN OFFICIALS RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITY AND EMPLOYMENT OF MS. VALERIE PLAME

Mr. GOSS, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-413, Part 1) on the resolution (H. Res. 499) requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President and those officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame, which was ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The report will be received as Part 1.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on Wednesday February 4, 2004, for the majority leader or his designee to call up the following resolutions: H. Res. 493, H. Res. 496, H. Res. 497, H. Res. 498, H. Res. 511, H. Res. 512, and H. Con. Res. 355; and each resolution be considered as read and the previous question be considered as ordered on each resolution to final adoption without intervening motion except (1) 1 hour of debate and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3030, IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 108-412) on the resolution (H. Res. 513) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 507, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 157, by the yeas and nays;

House Joint Resolution 84, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 507.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 507, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Boehner	Chocola
Ackerman	Bonilla	Coble
Aderholt	Bonner	Cole
Akin	Bono	Collins
Alexander	Boozman	Cooper
Allen	Boswell	Costello
Andrews	Boucher	Cramer
Baca	Boyd	Crane
Bachus	Bradley (NH)	Crenshaw
Baird	Brady (PA)	Crowley
Baker	Brady (TX)	Cubin
Baldwin	Brown (OH)	Cummings
Ballance	Brown (SC)	Cunningham
Ballenger	Brown, Corrine	Davis (AL)
Barrett (SC)	Burgess	Davis (CA)
Bartlett (MD)	Burns	Davis (FL)
Barton (TX)	Burr	Davis (IL)
Bass	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)
Beauprez	Buyer	Davis, Jo Ann
Becerra	Calvert	Davis, Tom
Bell	Camp	Deal (GA)
Bereuter	Cannon	DeFazio
Berkley	Cantor	Delahunt
Berman	Capito	DeLauro
Berry	Capps	DeLay
Biggart	Capuano	DeMint
Bilirakis	Cardin	Deutsch
Bishop (GA)	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bishop (UT)	Carson (OK)	Dingell
Blackburn	Carter	Doggett
Blumenauer	Case	Doolittle
Blunt	Castle	Doyle
Boehler	Chabot	Dreier

Duncan	Lampson	Renzi
Dunn	Lantos	Reyes
Edwards	Larsen (WA)	Reynolds
Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Rodriguez
Emanuel	Latham	Rogers (AL)
Emerson	LaTourette	Rogers (KY)
Engel	Leach	Rogers (MI)
Evans	Lee	Rohrabacher
Everett	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen
Fattah	Lewis (CA)	Ross
Feeney	Lewis (GA)	Rothman
Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard
Filner	Linder	Royce
Flake	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Foley	LoBiondo	Rush
Forbes	Lofgren	Ryan (WI)
Ford	Lowey	Sabo
Fossella	Lucas (KY)	Sánchez, Linda
Frank (MA)	Lynch	T.
Franks (AZ)	Majette	Sanchez, Loretta
Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Sanders
Frost	Manzullo	Sandlin
Gallegly	Markey	Saxton
Garrett (NJ)	Marshall	Schakowsky
Gerlach	Matheson	Schiff
Gibbons	Matsui	Schrock
Gilchrest	McCarthy (MO)	Scott (GA)
Gillmor	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)
Gingrey	McCollum	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez	McCotter	Serrano
Goode	McDermott	Sessions
Goodlatte	McGovern	Shadeegg
Gordon	McHugh	Shaw
Goss	McInnis	Shays
Granger	McIntyre	Sherman
Graves	McKeon	Sherwood
Green (TX)	McNulty	Shimkus
Green (WI)	Meehan	Shuster
Greenwood	Meek (FL)	Simmons
Gutknecht	Meeks (NY)	Simpson
Hall	Menendez	Skelton
Harman	Mica	Slaughter
Harris	Michaud	Smith (MI)
Hart	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (NC)	Snyder
Hayes	Miller, Gary	Solis
Hayworth	Miller, George	Souder
Hefley	Mollohan	Spratt
Hensarling	Moore	Stearns
Herger	Moran (KS)	Stenholm
Hill	Moran (VA)	Strickland
Hinche	Murphy	Stupak
Hobson	Murtha	Sullivan
Hoeffel	Musgrave	Sweeney
Hoekstra	Nadler	Tancred
Holden	Napolitano	Tanner
Holt	Neal (MA)	Tauscher
Hooley (OR)	Nethercutt	Taylor (MS)
Hostettler	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)
Houghton	Ney	Terry
Hoyer	Northup	Thomas
Hulshof	Norwood	Thompson (CA)
Hunter	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
Hyde	Nussle	Thornberry
Isakson	Oberstar	Tiahrt
Israel	Obey	Tiberi
Issa	Olver	Tierney
Istook	Osborne	Toomey
Jackson (IL)	Ose	Towns
Jackson-Lee	Otter	Turner (OH)
(TX)	Owens	Turner (TX)
Jefferson	Oxley	Udall (CO)
Jenkins	Pallone	Udall (NM)
John	Pascrell	Upton
Johnson (CT)	Pastor	Van Hollen
Johnson (IL)	Paul	Velázquez
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Visclosky
Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Vitter
Jones (NC)	Pelosi	Walden (OR)
Jones (OH)	Pence	Walsh
Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)	Wamp
Kaptur	Peterson (PA)	Waters
Keller	Petri	Watt
Kelly	Pickering	Waxman
Kennedy (MN)	Pitts	Weiner
Kennedy (RI)	Platts	Weldon (FL)
Kildee	Pomeroy	Weldon (PA)
Kilpatrick	Porter	Weller
Kind	Portman	Wexler
King (IA)	Price (NC)	Whitfield
King (NY)	Pryce (OH)	Wicker
Kingston	Putnam	Wilson (NM)
Kirk	Quinn	Wilson (SC)
Kleczka	Radanovich	Wolf
Kline	Ramstad	Woolsey
Knollenberg	Rangel	Wu
Kolbe	Regula	Young (AK)
LaHood	Rehberg	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—35

Brown-Waite,	Farr	Myrick
Ginny	Gephardt	Ortiz
Clay	Grijalva	Pombo
Clyburn	Gutierrez	Rahall
Conyers	Hinojosa	Ryan (OH)
Cox	Honda	Ryun (KS)
Culberson	Inslee	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Kucinich	Stark
Dicks	Langevin	Tauzin
Dooley (CA)	Lucas (OK)	Watson
English	McCrery	Wynn
Eshoo	Millender-	
Etheridge	McDonald	

□ 1856

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 12, H. Res. 507, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on the first vote this evening, on H.R. 507, I was unavoidably detained. I ask that the record reflect that had I been present I would have voted "yes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the remainder of this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO END CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 157.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 157, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]

YEAS—398

Abercrombie	Bartlett (MD)	Blumenauer
Ackerman	Barton (TX)	Blunt
Aderholt	Bass	Boehler
Akin	Beauprez	Boehner
Alexander	Becerra	Bonilla
Allen	Bell	Bonner
Andrews	Bereuter	Bono
Baca	Berkley	Boozman
Bachus	Berry	Boswell
Baird	Biggart	Boucher
Baker	Bilirakis	Boyd
Baldwin	Bishop (GA)	Bradley (NH)
Ballance	Bishop (NY)	Brady (PA)
Ballenger	Bishop (UT)	Brady (TX)
Barrett (SC)	Blackburn	Brown (OH)

Brown (SC)	Harman	Mica	Smith (MI)	Thomas	Wamp	Brady (PA)	Harman	Michaud
Brown, Corrine	Harris	Michaud	Smith (NJ)	Thompson (CA)	Waters	Brady (TX)	Harris	Miller (FL)
Burgess	Hart	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)	Thompson (MS)	Watt	Brown (OH)	Hart	Miller (MI)
Burns	Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)	Snyder	Thornberry	Waxman	Brown (SC)	Hastings (FL)	Miller (NC)
Burr	Hastings (WA)	Miller (NC)	Solis	Tiahrt	Weiner	Burgess	Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary
Burton (IN)	Hayes	Miller, Gary	Souder	Tiberi	Weldon (FL)	Burns	Hayes	Miller, George
Buyer	Hayworth	Miller, George	Spratt	Tierney	Weldon (PA)	Burr	Hayworth	Mollohan
Calvert	Hefley	Mollohan	Stearns	Toomey	Weller	Burton (IN)	Hefley	Moore
Camp	Hensarling	Moore	Stenholm	Towns	Wexler	Buyer	Hensarling	Moran (KS)
Cannon	Herger	Moran (KS)	Strickland	Turner (OH)	Whitfield	Calvert	Herger	Moran (VA)
Cantor	Hill	Moran (VA)	Stupak	Turner (TX)	Wicker	Camp	Hill	Murphy
Capito	Hinchey	Murphy	Sullivan	Udall (CO)	Wilson (NM)	Cannon	Hinchey	Murtha
Capps	Hinojosa	Murtha	Sweeney	Udall (NM)	Wilson (SC)	Cantor	Hinojosa	Musgrave
Capuano	Hobson	Musgrave	Tancred	Upton	Wolf	Capito	Hobson	Nadler
Cardin	Hoeffel	Nadler	Tanner	Van Hollen	Woolsey	Capps	Hoeffel	Napolitano
Cardoza	Hoekstra	Napolitano	Tauscher	Velázquez	Wu	Capuano	Hoekstra	Neal (MA)
Carson (IN)	Holden	Neal (MA)	Tauzin	Visclosky	Young (AK)	Cardin	Holden	Nethercutt
Carson (OK)	Holt	Nethercutt	Taylor (MS)	Vitter	Young (FL)	Cardoza	Holt	Neugebauer
Carter	Hooley (OR)	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)	Walden (OR)		Carson (IN)	Hooley (OR)	Ney
Case	Hostettler	Ney	Terry	Walsh		Carson (OK)	Hostettler	Northup
Castle	Houghton	Northup				Carter	Houghton	Norwood
Chabot	Hoyer	Norwood				Case	Hoyer	Nunes
Chocola	Hulshof	Nunes	Berman	Gephardt	Ortiz	Castle	Hulshof	Nussle
Coble	Hunter	Nussle	Brown-Waite,	Grijalva	Pombo	Chabot	Hunter	Oberstar
Cole	Hyde	Oberstar	Ginny	Gutierrez	Rahall	Chocola	Hyde	Obey
Collins	Isakson	Obey	Clay	Honda	Ryan (WI)	Coble	Isakson	Olver
Conyers	Israel	Olver	Clyburn	Inslee	Ryun (KS)	Cole	Israel	Osborne
Cooper	Issa	Osborne	Cox	Istook	Sessions	Collins	Issa	Ose
Costello	Jackson (IL)	Ose	Culberson	Kucinich	Smith (WA)	Cooper	Istook	Otter
Cramer	Jackson-Lee	Otter	DeGette	Langevin	Stark	Costello	Jackson (IL)	Owens
Crane	(TX)	Owens	Dicks	Lucas (OK)	Watson	Cramer	Jackson-Lee	Oxley
Crenshaw	Jefferson	Oxley	Dooley (CA)	McCrery	Wynn	Crane	(TX)	Pallone
Crowley	Jenkins	Pallone	English	Millender-		Crenshaw	Jefferson	Pascarell
Cubin	John	Pascarell	Eshoo	McDonald		Crowley	Jenkins	Pastor
Cummings	Johnson (CT)	Pastor	Farr	Myrick		Cubin	John	Paul
Cunningham	Johnson (IL)	Paul				Cummings	Johnson (CT)	Payne
Davis (AL)	Johnson, E. B.	Payne				Cunningham	Johnson (IL)	Pearce
Davis (CA)	Johnson, Sam	Pearce				Davis (AL)	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi
Davis (FL)	Jones (NC)	Pelosi				Davis (CA)	Jones (NC)	Pence
Davis (IL)	Jones (OH)	Pence				Davis (FL)	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)
Davis (TN)	Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)				Davis (IL)	Kanjorski	Peterson (PA)
Davis, Jo Ann	Kaptur	Peterson (PA)				Davis (TN)	Kaptur	Petri
Davis, Tom	Keller	Petri				Davis, Jo Ann	Keller	Pickering
Deal (GA)	Kelly	Pickering				Davis, Tom	Kelly	Pitts
DeFazio	Kennedy (MN)	Pitts				Deal (GA)	Kennedy (MN)	Platts
Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)	Platts				DeFazio	Kennedy (RI)	Pomeroy
DeLauro	Kildee	Pomeroy				Delahunt	Kildee	Porter
DeLay	Kilpatrick	Porter				DeLauro	Kilpatrick	Portman
DeMint	Kind	Portman				DeLay	Kind	Price (NC)
Deutsch	King (IA)	Price (NC)				DeMint	King (IA)	Pryce (OH)
Diaz-Balart, L.	King (NY)	Pryce (OH)				Deutsch	King (NY)	Putnam
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kingston	Putnam				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kingston	Quinn
Dingell	Kirk	Quinn				Diaz-Balart, M.	Kirk	Radanovich
Doggett	Kleczka	Radanovich				Dingell	Kleczka	Ramstad
Doolittle	Kline	Ramstad				Doggett	Kline	Rangel
Doyle	Knollenberg	Rangel				Doolittle	Knollenberg	Regula
Dreier	Kolbe	Regula				Doyle	Kolbe	Rehberg
Duncan	LaHood	Rehberg				Dreier	LaHood	Renzi
Dunn	Lampson	Renzi				Duncan	Lampson	Reyes
Edwards	Lantos	Reyes				Dunn	Lantos	Reynolds
Ehlers	Larsen (WA)	Reynolds				Edwards	Larsen (WA)	Rodriguez
Emanuel	Larson (CT)	Rodriguez				Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Emerson	Latham	Rogers (AL)				Emanuel	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Engel	LaTourette	Rogers (KY)				Emerson	LaTourette	Rogers (MI)
Etheridge	Leach	Rogers (MI)				Engel	Leach	Rohrabacher
Evans	Lee	Rohrabacher				Etheridge	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen
Everett	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen				Evans	Lewis (CA)	Ross
Fattah	Lewis (CA)	Ross				Everett	Lewis (GA)	Rothman
Feeney	Lewis (GA)	Rothman				Feeney	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard
Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard				Ferguson	Linder	Royce
Filner	Linder	Royce				Filner	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Flake	Lipinski	Ruppersberger				Flake	LoBiondo	Rush
Foley	LoBiondo	Rush				Foley	Lofgren	Ryan (OH)
Forbes	Lofgren	Ryan (OH)				Forbes	Lowey	Ryan (WI)
Ford	Lowey	Sabo				Ford	Lucas (KY)	Sabo
Fossella	Lucas (KY)	Sánchez, Linda				Fossella	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Frank (MA)	Lynch	T.				Frank (MA)	Majette	T.
Franks (AZ)	Majette	Sánchez, Loretta				Franks (AZ)	Maloney	Sánchez, Loretta
Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Sanders				Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Sanders
Frost	Manzullo	Sandlin				Frost	Markey	Sandlin
Gallegly	Markey	Saxton				Gallegly	Marshall	Saxton
Garrett (NJ)	Marshall	Schakowsky				Garrett (NJ)	Matheson	Schakowsky
Gerlach	Matheson	Schiff				Gerlach	Matsui	Schiff
Gibbons	Matsui	Schrock				Gibbons	McCarthy (MO)	Schrock
Gilchrest	McCarthy (MO)	Scott (GA)				Gilchrest	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (GA)
Gillmor	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)				Gillmor	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Gingrey	McCollum	Sensenbrenner				Gingrey	McCotter	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez	McCotter	Serrano				Gonzalez	McDermott	Serrano
Goode	McDermott	Shadegg				Goode	McGovern	Sessions
Goodlatte	Shaw	Shays				Goodlatte	McHugh	Shadegg
Gordon	McHugh	Sherman				Gordon	McInnis	Shaw
Goss	McInnis	Sherwood				Goss	McIntyre	Shays
Granger	McIntyre	Shimkus				Granger	McKeon	Sherman
Graves	McKeon	Shimkus				Graves	McNulty	Sherwood
Green (TX)	McNulty	Shuster				Green (TX)	Meehan	Shimkus
Green (WI)	Meehan	Simmons				Green (WI)	Meek (FL)	Shuster
Greenwood	Meek (FL)	Simpson				Greenwood	Meeks (NY)	Simmons
Gutknecht	Meeks (NY)	Skelton				Gutknecht	Menendez	Simpson
Hall	Menendez	Slaughter				Hall	Mica	Skelton

NOT VOTING—34

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 93D BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 84.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 84, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, answered “present” 5, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 14]

YEAS—394

Abercrombie	Barrett (SC)	Bishop (UT)
Ackerman	Bartlett (MD)	Blackburn
Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Blumenauer
Akin	Bass	Blunt
Alexander	Beauprez	Boehert
Allen	Becerra	Boehner
Andrews	Bell	Bonilla
Baca	Berkley	Bonner
Bachus	Berman	Bono
Baird	Berry	Boozman
Baker	Biggart	Boswell
Baldwin	Bilirakis	Boucher
Ballance	Bishop (GA)	Boyd
Ballenger	Bishop (NY)	Bradley (NH)

Slaughter	Taylor (NC)	Vitter
Smith (MI)	Terry	Walden (OR)
Smith (NJ)	Thomas	Walsh
Smith (TX)	Thompson (CA)	Wamp
Snyder	Thompson (MS)	Waxman
Solis	Thornberry	Weiner
Souder	Tiahrt	Weldon (FL)
Spratt	Tiberi	Weldon (PA)
Stearns	Tierney	Weller
Stenholm	Toomey	Wexler
Strickland	Towns	Whitfield
Stupak	Turner (OH)	Wicker
Sullivan	Turner (TX)	Wilson (NM)
Sweeney	Udall (CO)	Wilson (SC)
Tancredo	Udall (NM)	Wolf
Tanner	Upton	Woolsey
Tauscher	Van Hollen	Wu
Tauzin	Velázquez	Young (AK)
Taylor (MS)	Visclosky	Young (FL)

ANSWERED PRESENT—5

Brown, Corrine	Lee	Watt
Johnson, E. B.	Waters	

NOT VOTING—33

Bereuter	Eshoo	Millender-
Brown-Waite,	Farr	McDonald
Ginny	Fattah	Myrick
Clay	Gephardt	Ortiz
Clyburn	Grijalva	Pombo
Conyers	Gutierrez	Rahall
Cox	Honda	Ryun (KS)
Culberson	Inslee	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Kucinich	Stark
Dicks	Langevin	Watson
Dooley (CA)	Lucas (OK)	Wynn
English	McCrery	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1911

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be present for recorded votes today due to health reasons. However, if I had been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on rollcall vote Nos. 12, 13 and 14.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2013

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER) at 8 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE DUTY OF LEADERS TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the most fundamental right that is guaranteed to us by the founders of our country is the right to speak freely. The Founding Fathers knew that public discourse is the backbone of a republic and must be inherent to a free society. As leaders, it is our job to raise the level of public debate in this country so that we can leave behind a legacy of sound decision enhanced by free-willed people. But we should never lower the bar of public debate to the point where baseless rhetoric is the standard.

It is our duty, Mr. Speaker, as leaders, to raise the level of public debate to a level where truth can be self-evident, where the lines of fact and fiction are clear and not blurred, and where it would be unimaginable for a public figure to blatantly deceive the American people.

We have a duty to all Americans, as leaders, to be responsible in our rhetoric, honest in our discourse, and truthful in our debate.

Mr. Speaker, I have been profoundly disappointed in some of the recent public discourse by some regarding President Bush's service to our country. On Sunday morning, Terry McAuliffe, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said that President Bush was AWOL from the Alabama National Guard. Furthermore, he said that President Bush, as a member of the National Guard, never served our country in the military. In my hands right here I hold President George Bush's DD-214, which is the official separation record of any service member. Let the record show that it says right here that President Bush, our Commander in Chief, served honorably in the National Guard and received an honorable discharge.

For those of the Vietnam era, like I was, who will remember the service of National Guard troops, they understand that a fighter pilot unit was not the best place to hide in the National Guard. My own personal recollection is that one morning as a copilot on a C-130, I had been held overnight at that base that was abandoned and was being reopened at Takhli Air Force Base in Thailand. When I got up and walked outside the tent that morning there was an F-105 pilot there. He was nervous and said, "Where am I? Twelve hours ago," he said, "I was teaching school in Kansas." He was in the Kansas National Guard. Twelve hours later, after teaching school, he is in the Southeast Asian conflict, flying wild weasel missions over the north.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard flying fighters was not a place to hide during the Vietnam conflict. It is next to impossible for the President to have received an honorable discharge if he was found guilty or even accused of

AWOL. McAuliffe's charges are to imply that the Guard would have given an honorable discharge to someone who did not show up for service.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this accusation is reckless, it is irresponsible, and it is false. These charges are slanderous and without merit. It is outrageous for a leader of a political party and a top surrogate of the Presidential forerunner to be making this charge in our public discourse.

Especially upsetting to me is that McAuliffe believes that serving in the National Guard does not constitute serving in the military. To imply that the National Guard is not military service is to dismiss the sacrifices of tens of thousands of National Guardsmen and women who have served before and are presently serving. And it is a slap in the face to their service and their families.

National Guardsmen in World War II landed at Omaha Beach. The New Mexico National Guard served in the Pacific, and still today we honor those members who survived the Bataan Death March, who were members of the National Guard in New Mexico.

Currently there are more than 193,000 National Guard members and Reservists currently serving our country in the war on terror. About 40 percent of the soldiers in Iraq are Guard and Reserve. In my district alone I have more than 1,500 National Guardsmen and women and Reservists currently serving on Active Duty.

And, Mr. Speaker, it would be a cold day in July in New Mexico before I would let anyone say that these men and women, the people that I represent in this fine institution, do not serve our country.

I went to Iraq, Mr. Speaker, and I met personally with young men and women who are serving there. Mr. Speaker, the National Guard and Reserves are steadfast servants to our country, serving to ensure that liberty for others is achieved. Some of these men and women are on the front lines. They serve as a wedge between terrorism and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard and Reserve soldiers are serving our country as we speak. As a member of the Air Force, I find Mr. McAuliffe's characterizations insulting and demeaning. Terry McAuliffe cheapens the National Guard by saying it is not military service. His baseless insinuations diminish the National Guard as an institution. He owes an apology to the men and women in the National Guard and Reserve uniforms who are serving our country and protecting their fellow Americans.

Mr. McAuliffe's comments represent the worst of election year politics. It must be a sad day to be a member of the political party whose leader publicly denounces, degrades, and dishonors the fighting force that is at this moment fighting for freedom and liberty and who have risked their lives to fight terrorism around the world.

It is a sad day, Mr. Speaker, when we allow our public debate to be laced with deception in this body and the other body. We have a duty to the American people and to future generations to raise the level of our honest public debate in this country. Let that be our legacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE DUE TO EARTH WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend just a couple of minutes discussing facts about the potential for climate change. Is there such a thing as climate change? Is the earth warming?

On the perspective of climate change and whether or not there is global warming, tonight I would like to discuss the oceans, which make up about 70 percent of the earth's surface. The ocean has a huge moderating effect on the heat balance of the planet. As the oceans affect our climate, they move in currents around the globe and bring either cold water or warm water to different areas. And that effect has this immense balancing of the heat on the planet. And we have experienced fairly moderate temperatures for hundreds of years.

We all know that the climate does change periodically. We have had Ice Ages in the past. In the past there have been plants growing in the area we now call the Antarctic. So climate does change over a period of time. There is some indication, though, that when the climate has changed in the past, it has changed quickly, sometimes dramatically, without human intervention.

What I would like to speak to tonight is human activity causing the ocean surface temperature to rise. A number of scientists who have written a number of articles recently have shown clear evidence that in the last 40 years, ocean temperatures around the globe on their surface have increased rather dramatically.

As a matter of fact, the increase in the last 40 years can be compared to the increase in the last 1,000 years. Now, there are certain things that cause the ocean to move. We know wind causes it to move, the temperature of the water will cause it to move, the salinity of the ocean will cause certain movements, the rotation of the earth, evaporation and precipitation. These are all effects that cause the ocean to move. But since the ocean temperature is warming, there is more

evaporation around the equatorial regions because the ocean is warming more there than has been in recent times. As a result of that, there is more precipitation in the northern part of our oceans.

Ocean currents, then, which are affected by these conditions, whether it is wind, temperature, salinity and so on, the ocean currents are having a tendency to move differently. Ocean currents have a dynamic impact on the climate balance of the planet because it moves warm water, thus the weather, or a change of weather, to different parts of the planet.

For example, England is on the same latitude as Labrador, but England has a much warmer climate than Labrador. Part of this is because of ocean currents moving in the Atlantic Ocean.

If we can take the Atlantic Ocean as an example, if you look at the Atlantic Ocean, the currents move in a clockwise fashion. We know that the gulf stream moving north along the coast of the United States moves north. When it gets up to the area of Greenland-Iceland-Norway, it then moves south. This current has been going for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

The reason the current is so strong in this area is because when the water moves further north, it gets colder and more dense and begins to sink. As a result of a relationship of evaporation and precipitation, when it moves further north it gets saltier. When the water is cold and saltier it sinks fast, creating a pump that pushes the water south. Hence, we have a conveyor belt that keeps the north Atlantic moving in a clockwise motion.

What is beginning to happen now, though, is interesting. Glaciers are melting, the polar ice cap is diminishing. There is greater rainfall in the north Atlantic. And as a result of these conditions, caused in part by the warming on the ocean surface, we have fresh water being a major part of the north Atlantic.

Even though fresh water will sink because it is more dense, it sinks very slowly. The fact that you have saltwater with the cold fresh water, it sinks faster. Because the water is becoming fresher, less saltier in the north Atlantic, the pump is slowing down, which means the conveyor belt is slowing down, which means the warmer water that is moving to the northern areas from the equatorial regions of the planet is not moving as fast.

So the consequence of this, the potential consequence of this, is a much colder area in the north Atlantic, which would mean the United States and that area, Asia, Europe, and Scandinavia.

Mr. Speaker, just a couple of interesting facts about the potential climate change.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S 2005 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in great disagreement with the funding priorities set forth by our President that was just unveiled a few days ago in his 2005 budget. Over and over again we hear that President Bush wants to create jobs, protect our environment, and help the uninsured and make our Nation a safer place for future generations.

However, the President has raised or released a budget with the record deficit of \$521 billion that is, in my opinion, one of the most anti-worker, anti-health care, and anti-environmental proposals in modern times.

When the President took office it was the first time in 70 years that a President had a surplus, a surplus of \$5.6 trillion. For the third year in a row, this administration has proposed more oversize tax cuts that just drive the budget further into the red and do nothing to bolster the priorities of the American public.

We need more jobs. We need better access to health care. We need more funding for education and more environmental protections. And most of all, we need a commitment by this administration to make these priorities.

Let us look at the reality facing our American families. Since President Bush took office, the economy is down 2.9 million private sector jobs; 2.9 million jobs lost. And I am referring to a chart here, unemployment rates in my own district. When I look at the cities that I represent, for example, the city of El Monte, we are still upwards of 7.9 percent in unemployment. In the area of east Los Angeles, where a large number of Hispanics live, we are almost up to 10 percent. It has been there stagnating for almost 3 years.

□ 2030

It has not changed the course that the President would like us all to believe that somehow the economy is recovering; 90,000 workers a week are running out of unemployment benefits with no jobs in sight because the Bush economy is creating only one job for every three people that are unemployed. Yet we continually hear promises that the tax cuts will create jobs. Workers need more economic security, not tax cuts. And workers in small businesses, particularly in districts like mine who thrive and are the ones that are actually making a better life for us in our country, are having to face a 10 percent budget cut in the Small Business Administration. And since the year 2001, 2.4 million more Americans have lost their health care.

Again, we have heard the President prioritize health care for all Americans. However, creating a refundable tax credit to purchase health insurance does not ensure affordable insurance for individuals who are older and who have poorer health care. We are in the midst of a health care crisis, and the proposed tax care credit would only help 5 percent of the 44 million that are currently uninsured in this country.

The low-income families in my district do not want to hear false promises. They need to know that the programs they depend on, like Medicaid, are being supported and protected. We cannot ignore once again budget cuts, for example, that are being thwarted right now or lashed against; the Environmental Protection Agency will cut about 7 percent of their budget. We hear this administration telling us, we protect the environment; we are really doing all of these things because we want to have a safer environment, safer drinking water and cleaner air. But the majority of the funding that is being taken away at this time will, in fact, not protect our environment or public health.

We cannot make these kinds of trade-offs that we are hearing about. We cannot increase Superfund funding at the mercy of clean-water funding. We cannot steal from Peter to pay Paul. And the budget that the Bush administration is proposing cuts funding for leaking underground storage tank clean-up which is very critical in my district because you see blighted areas right now, you see gas stations that are abandoned. There are about 150 of these tanks in my district. They release toxic chemicals in our soil and in our water supply.

Our communities deserve clean air, land and water, and our children's health depends upon it. We cannot afford to ignore this.

The Department of Homeland Security might have received an overall 5 percent increase, according to this administration, but the President proposed cuts in grants to local fire, police, and emergency medical agencies which will result in about 18 percent cuts overall, first responders, public safety grant cuts by 18 percent from \$4.4 billion to \$3.6 billion. So who is really taking care of the homeland?

In my district, police departments are already feeling a tremendous strain, and many police departments are already proposing massive layoffs. In fact, one of the best programs that I can tell you about in my district is known as a community-oriented police service program, the COPS program, which is one of the very basic programs that helps provide the local cop on the beat. That is now being penciled out.

Our first responders must provide critical lifesaving services. I can go on and on, but the fact of the matter is we are talking about cuts in jobs and in education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under

a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RONALD REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight in honor of the 93rd birthday of one of our greatest Presidents. Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980 on the promise of a new America. His fearless determination in the face of the Iron Curtain gave America the hope for a better tomorrow.

Reagan's vision inspired the promise of future leaders and guided our country away from big government, high taxes, and economic stagnation towards international strength and fiscal responsibility.

Born February 6, 1911, President Reagan studied economics at Eureka College, took a job as a sportscaster, and found his way to Hollywood where he appeared in 53 films. One of the most famous films was "Knut Rockne—All American," where Reagan played legendary Notre Dame star George Gipp. "Win one for the Gipper," Knute Rockne proclaimed as he inspired his players to defeat Army for their last and only one of the season. This line later became the campaign motto for our 40th President.

Reagan embarked on his journey into politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild, and he soon realized his talents were needed in the political arena. Reagan went on to become the Governor of California in 1966, campaigned for President in 1972 and 1976, and was elected President of the United States in 1980, winning 489 electoral votes.

Amidst high inflation at home and hostages abroad, Americans longed for renewal, sweeping Ronald Reagan into office. Sixty-nine days after his inauguration, Reagan was shot by a would-be assassin. As doctors rushed him to surgery, Reagan stated, "I hope you are all Republicans," only to hear his doctor reply, "Today, Mr. President, we are all Republicans."

Reagan returned balance and exuberance to our government. Suddenly, there were two political parties working together towards meaningful legislation to renew our economy with tax cuts. Reagan's America was a place where all Americans were self-reliant. Reagan showed that big government was not the answer, but the problem. Reagan's agenda was to reduce the size of our government, cut spending, and reinvigorate our economy.

The success of President Reagan's economic strategy has given us direction on how to restore an economy recovering from a recession. In 1986, Reagan overhauled the income tax code, which eliminated millions of people with low incomes from the tax rolls. He knew that the best way to encourage economic growth was to give money back to the people. Reagan's tax cut sparked one of the most ambitious and fastest-growing economies in our history. We are beginning to see similar results under President Bush's tax cuts. Reagan proved that tax cuts could spark the necessary investment for a new economy.

In foreign policy, Reagan's motto was "peace through strength," as he embarked on a quest to end the Cold War, reunite Germany, reduce nuclear arms, and fight terrorism. Reagan is credited for winning the Cold War and setting the stage for the fall of the Berlin Wall. Although the birth of America's new economy in the 1980s is his economic legacy, people that remember the Reagan era recall a spirit of patriotism like no other. People rallied behind the banner of American ideals in the face of Communism and international insecurity.

After the threat of terrorism in the late 1970s and early 1980s, our Nation needed a reason to feel unity and security. Reagan was there to lend his wit and his hope in our Nation to all Americans. He gave us hope and promise when we needed it most, and Reagan's true legacy is the restoration of the dream that is America.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BUSH BUDGET IS WHOLLY DEFICIENT AND IMMORAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to discuss the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2005. The Bush Budget boasts \$521 million in deficits and takes the audacious step of increasing the budget by 50 percent in 1 year while promising to cut that same 50 percent increase in half within 5 years. Is he joking? Does he think the American public has no discerning ability to think about the state of our affairs logically? To create such a huge deficit and place it on the backs of our children is morally indefensible. The interest expense of the deficit will mean higher taxes and will also mean that future taxpayers will be hamstrung to provide for national security, homeland security, and education for our kids or healthcare for our parents. Moreover, Bush's budget represents the largest deficits in this Nation's history. To make this statistic even worse, he took office with a \$5.6 trillion surplus.

Cuts to Education: The Bush budget fails to provide \$9.4 billion in promised funding for education, which means that 2.4 million children will not get the help in reading and math they were promised. Bush's budget freezes funding for rural education and provides only half the funding promised to after school programs. This shortfall in funding means that 1.3 million children who were promised after school programs will not get them. The Bush administration has frozen funding for Pell grants at the maximum level of \$4,050 and results in a lower average award of \$2,399. The administration's budget also cuts reading programs by \$22 million, even though the President touts a new \$100 million reading program for high school students and an increase of \$129 million for Reading First, however, in order to pay for these increases, the President budget eliminates \$247 million in the Even Start literacy program. Despite the administration's attempt to highlight its community college job training proposal, the Bush budget cuts job training programs by \$286 million. These cuts total \$36 million more than the \$250 million proposed for the community college program. In addition, the budget would cut \$316 million in vocational training funding in the Department of Education. All of these cuts are on top of \$1.4 billion in spending reductions President Bush has proposed for job training and vocational education since he took office.

Cuts in Veterans Benefits: While almost all veteran programs provide medical care and hospital services, President Bush's budget for Veterans programs of \$29.8 billion is \$257 million below the amount the CBO estimated it needs to maintain current benefit levels. Over 5 years, the budget is \$13.5 billion below the amount needed to maintain benefits at the current level. Bush's budget also fails to repeal the Disabled Veterans Tax, which forces disabled military retirees to give up \$1 of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive. Also, the budget imposes a \$250 annual enrollment fee on non-service-connected Priority 7 (higher income, non-service-connected) veterans and all Priority 8 veterans who wish to receive medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The budget assumes 5-year savings of \$1.5 billion from this proposal. The budget also assumes 5-year savings of \$747 million from increasing pharmacy co-payments for Priority 7 and 8 veterans from \$7 to \$15. Both of these were proposed in last year's budget and rejected by

the Congress. The President's budget raises health care costs for veterans, imposing new co-payments and enrollment fees that will cost veterans over \$2 billion over 5 years.

Cuts in Healthcare: The Bush budget reflects a difference of \$139 billion, a total of \$534 billion over 10 years to fund the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act. The Bush budget cuts Medicaid spending by 23.6 billion over 10 years by curbing intergovernmental transfers and the use of the upper payment limit and by limiting Medicaid provider payments to the cost of providing services. When these cuts are combined, the total impact on Medicaid results in \$15.7 billion over 10 years. This year's budget once again proposes block grant Medicaid. Under this proposal, States have the option to cut benefits to certain Medicaid populations and to roll back benefits.

Tax Cuts: The President makes his expiring tax cuts permanent at a cost of \$131.6 billion over 5 years. Over 75 years, these tax cuts exceed the combined shortfalls in Social Security and Medicare. The budget squanders an additional \$1 trillion over the next 10 years in additional tax cuts for the wealthy, but does not expand the tax credit to cover millions of military and working families. Instead of helping small business growth, the Bush budget cuts funding for Small Business Administration by 10 percent. President Bush continues to push for tax breaks for companies that move American jobs overseas instead of helping American small businesses.

Glaring Omissions: No funding in 2005 for the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Supplemental funding which will further increase the deficit will be required to pay for the costs of these operations. The budget avoids long-term reform of the alternative minimum tax (AMT), even though the AMT will soon force millions of middle class families to pay more taxes, contrary to the original intent of the AMT.

Record Job Losses: President Bush enjoys the worst jobs record since Herbert Hoover. This is the third budget that Mr. Bush has produced which claimed that jobs would be created. Instead, the exact opposite has occurred, over the past 3 years, the United States has lost more than 2.3 million jobs. The Bush budget cuts \$286 million from job training and employment services, these cuts come on top of the \$1.5 billion in cuts to job training and related services that President Bush proposed when he took office. The Bush budget for the Labor Department does not keep pace with inflation and cuts desperately needed programs. Two million individuals over the coming months are expected to exhaust their Federal and State unemployment benefits, due to objections from Republican leaders to extend these benefits. The Bush budget block-grants adult and dislocated worker programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), jeopardizing critical training resources just as workers look to gain new skills to compete in an increasingly tight job market. Dislocated workers will be hurt the most because there would no longer be dedicated funding guaranteed to help them find new jobs. The Bush budget also eliminates the Employment Service—the very program that connects unemployed workers with jobs. This termination comes at a time when millions of workers continue to struggle to find jobs.

Mr. Bush's tax cuts which promised to increase jobs has not come to fruition. Not only

have the losses been massive but \$1 trillion of new debt has been created. Last month, only 1,000 jobs were created by the economy. However, in his last State of the Union address, President Bush stated that "jobs are on rise." Based on this type of progress, it would take 192 years and 8 months for the economy to return to the number of jobs it had at the beginning of Bush's presidency.

Additional Domestic Cuts: Domestic appropriations are held to a 1 percent increase which reduces funding for transportation, environmental protection, and small businesses and other priority series that the American people want and respect.

The President's budget is a bad dream beyond belief. It is evasive, inefficient, poorly thought and most egregiously hurts the people who can least afford to be hurt. The Democrats have priorities and we are going to fight for them. We want to create good paying jobs and help small business to grow, to improve education, lower health care cost, support veterans and military retirees as well as to do more to protect our ports and borders from terrorism.

In another sly move, President Bush presented a 5-year budget instead of a 10-year budget to further conceal the true cost of his policies to the American public. This budget includes policies that have long-term costs that need to be looked at over longer periods of time. Examples of programs that meet this criteria include the President's Mission to Mars and the Lifetime Savings and Retirement accounts which will incur significant costs past the 5-year time frame. To further put the deficit in perspective, be aware that in 1998, we achieved the first balanced budget in 29 years. In 1999, we achieved the first balanced budget without reliance on the Social Security trust fund. In 2000, we achieved the first balanced budget without relying on either the Social Security or Medicare Trust Fund surpluses in the history of those programs.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL THAT WOULD BENEFIT ALL SENIORS

Mr. Speaker, I also rise tonight because I am concerned that while millions of senior citizens struggle to pay for their prescription drugs, Republicans once again have joined forces with HMOs and big drug companies to pass legislation that does nothing to bring down the skyrocketing costs of drug prices.

The real winners of the new GOP prescription drug law are not the seniors, but the drug companies, who will make billions in windfall profits; and the big insurance companies who will benefit immediately from the billions in HMO overpayments, and a special \$12 billion Medicare HMO slush fund.

You do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that the GOP was more concerned about protecting the profits of big drug companies, rather than controlling the prices of prescription drugs so more seniors could afford them. Just look at the fine print of the law.

The bill explicitly prohibits the government from negotiating lower prescription drug prices from the big drug companies, and prohibits the legal importation of drugs from Canada. Mr. Speaker, prohibiting the government

form lowering the costs of prescription drugs, when Nation is experiencing a growing budget deficit, and is experiencing a sluggish economy, makes no sense at all.

Furthermore, there is a doughnut hole in the GOP bill that is large enough to drive a Mack truck through. Under the Republican bill, in the first year, millions of middle class seniors with drug costs between \$2,250 and \$5,100 will receive no help at all, even though they must pay premiums. This is not fair. Experts have concluded that most seniors will end up paying more for their prescription drugs in the near future, even if they enroll in the new program.

Tonight, I ask a very straight forward question: how in the world can millions of seniors citizens afford to pay, out of pocket, anywhere up to \$2,850 dollars in prescription drug costs, because of the doughnut hole in coverage in the GOP bill.

The answer is clear: seniors will continue to struggle, day after day, just as they have for decades, to figure out how they can afford to purchase desperately needed prescription drugs. Many will have to continue to endure their aches and pains because they will not be able to afford prescription drugs under this ill designed program.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is fair for senior citizens to have to go through this nightmare any more. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a moral outrage, and I urge the Congress to adopt a new Medicare Prescription drug bill that would benefit all seniors, not just the drug companies and the HMOs.

IRAQ INTELLIGENCE LAPSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the blessings of this Nation are that we are a Republic, a constitutional Republic, that the Founding Fathers were wise enough to establish three distinct branches of government. I take that distinction and that constitutional mandate very seriously and believe that the congressional legislative branch has a responsibility of oversight over the executive as the judiciary remains as an independent component.

The administration of this government, the executive, engaged in a debate in the fall of 2002 that suggested to the American people that we were about to be attacked by Iraq. It was a vigorous debate. There was great, if you will, challenge to the administration's facts; and they waged a very public, if you will, campaign to convince the American people and to convince the United States Congress that we were about to be imminently attacked. It was a serious campaign, Mr. Speaker; it was a serious moment in our history. Members of this Congress took that debate very seriously.

I recall very vividly great emotion on the floor of the House, great indecision, indecisiveness, great concern and conflictedness about whether we should go to war, whether or not the words of the President mentioned and the Axis of Evil that was then ultimately mentioned in the winter of 2003 was actually factual; but the administration was convinced. They have pushed the intelligence community to the point of representing to all of us that this information was factual.

Let me share with my colleagues words from the administration: "Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction," Vice President DICK CHENEY, August 26, 2002.

"Right now, Iraq is expanding and improving facilities that were used for production of biological weapons," President Bush, September 12, 2002.

"The Iraqi regime possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons," Bush, October 7, 2002.

"We have also discovered through intelligence that Iraq has a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles that will be used to disburse chemical and biological weapons across broad areas. We are concerned that Iraq is exploring ways of using the UAVs for missions targeting the United States," Bush, October 7, 2002.

"We know for a fact that there are weapons there," White House Spokesman, Ari Fleisher, January 9, 2003.

"The evidence indicates that Iraq is reconsidering its nuclear weapons program. Saddam Hussein has held numerous meetings with the Iraqi nuclear scientists, a group he calls his nuclear mujahadeen, his nuclear holy warriors. Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq is rebuilding facilities at sites that have been part of its nuclear program in the past," Bush, October 7, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I will be offering in the next couple of days the Protect America's National Security Act of 2004, the PANS Act of 2004. That is to demand congressional hearings by the Select Committee on Homeland Security, Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Armed Services, and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, absolutely demanding that an inquiry be made on the question of the level of intelligence that was utilized to convince this Congress, both the House and the Senate, of the decision to go to war.

I am against the bipartisan commission that has been offered by the President. Why? Because the President will be making the appointments regardless of the fact of whether they will be Democrats and Republicans. The President, the administration, the executive will be setting the time of the start and the completion of its work. I am concerned that any report and any investigation on the question of the type of intelligence that was given at the time of the decision made to go to war be challenged and it be an oversight by the Congress of the United States.

I refuse to allow this Congress to abdicate its responsibility under the Constitution to give oversight of the question of whether or not the intelligence given was both legitimate and substantial and the basis on which it was made.

To the American public, you deserve an answer. To the American public, you deserve that your congressional representatives engage in a process to investigate where there is no time set, where there is no end set, by the very executive that presented the intelligence.

In addition, we should hurry this report. This report should be done within a 6-month period because it is time sensitive. Why is it time sensitive, Mr. Speaker? Because intelligence is a basic infrastructure of security of America. It determines how we secure our borders, it determines aviation security, it determines the difference or the different levels of alert that we propose day after day after day.

It is crucial that the Congress rises to the level of oversight. It is interesting that we wish to push this very important work off to a civilian, if you will, commission which the very entity that we are investigating will be the one that will select both the participants and the procedures. Congress needs to use its subpoena powers and its investigatory powers in order to ensure that the American people have the truth.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in co-sponsoring the Protect America's National Security Act of 2004, which will ask for the general numbers of the CIA budget so that we will know, as was suggested by a former Reagan administration official.

I would like to thank my colleagues for taking the time to speak out tonight about this issue that is critical to the long-term survival of our Nation. I do not mean to use hyperbole. However, I truly believe that so much rides on our foreign intelligence gathering system. Our foreign policy, our trade policies, how we run our borders, what level of alert we are at, how we should live our day-to-day lives—it all is based on our understanding of what is happening in the world around us. If we are continually making decisions based on false assumptions and wrong interpretations, we could face a future full of 9/11s and unnecessary wars like the one still raging in Iraq today.

In the run-up to war, top Administration officials, and the President himself, were making statements daily about the deadly weapons that Saddam Hussein was pointing at the American people. We heard that they had stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons. We heard they were trying to buy materials for nuclear weapons; they had mobile weapons labs, and programs to develop more. One by one, these claims have been refuted. Last week, we heard Dr. David Kay, our own chief weapons inspector for the past year, testify that those claims were false.

However, we went to war based mostly on those claims. The war that has taken the lives of more than 500 brave U.S. soldiers, killed tens of thousands of Iraqis, cost us hundreds of billions of dollars, and diminished our standing in the world community. We have to find

out how this tragedy occurred, and make sure it doesn't happen again. The American people are calling for answers, and we need them urgently. On Friday, the President declared that he wants answers too. I commend him for that, but I am concerned that no matter how well-intentioned he is—the truth will not come out of his Administration.

I am worried that a commission hand-picked by the executive branch, with an agenda and schedule crafted by the executive branch, will be incapable of producing an objective and useful assessment of executive branch failures. It is a fundamental human trait that groups tend to close ranks to shield themselves from scrutiny when they know they have made mistakes. That is why the framers of the Constitution built a system of checks and balances into our great government. The President has the power to veto any law Congress passes, and in return, Congress has a strict duty of oversight over the executive branch and the Agencies.

It would be a gross dereliction of our duties, if Congress sits idly by and assumes that the Administration will take care of this problem. In fact, we have already seen that the President's Commission is getting off on the wrong foot. We are getting reports that it is too broad in scope, and may not yield any answers until next year. That is unacceptable. Our national security depends on reliable intelligence information. Furthermore, the President has stated that we are in a global "War on Terror." we have soldiers on the ground around the world fighting that war. They, their families, and the American people, deserve to know what they are fighting for, and what dangers they may face. We simply don't have months or years to waste before we get around to fixing our intelligence-gathering system. We may be vulnerable now, so we cannot rest until we address this problem.

Congressional leadership should immediately launch a series of full and comprehensive hearings, including Homeland Security, Judiciary, Armed Services, and Intel Committees from both the House and Senate. Within six months, we need to report back to the American people how the Administration could have been so far off the mark on Iraqi weapons. We must learn from that mistake first. After that, we can move on to broader issues.

None of us knows what a real investigation will yield. It will take hard work to fully understand the function of our intelligence gathering agencies, since they are largely secret from the American people, and most Members of Congress. Even simple questions like, "Are we putting enough money into Intel?" is tough to answer since the CIA budget is top secret. I think we need to take a look at that policy. Funding of special programs should obviously be guarded. However, I think maybe the American people should have a general idea of how much we are spending on intelligence gathering, in total. Only then can they decide if they are getting their money's worth.

But more important than the financing is the functionality. Do we have adequate manpower? Do we have reliable data? Are we interpreting that data properly? Have we compromised our analysis by poisoning it with politics and partisanship?

The American people deserve answers. This isn't about politics; it is about prudence.

□ 2045

THE REAL COST OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.) Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that after extensive debate we were told that the Medicare bill would cost \$400 billion to the taxpayers. We learned that the real number, and known all along, was \$540 billion. Not a single benefit has been accrued to a senior citizen. Not a single prescription drug or reduction in cost has been accrued to a senior citizen, and yet the taxpayers are being asked to foot the bill not for \$400 billion but for \$540 billion.

In the last 2 months since this Congress passed the prescription drug bill, three things have happened. First, the taxpayers have been asked to pay an additional \$140 billion. Second, Mr. Scully, who is over at Health and Human Services and negotiated this bill, got a huge lobbying contract and became a lobbyist. And in today's Wall Street Journal, there was an article about Delphi gets boost in new drug law where they are able to write off \$500 million in costs for health care for their seniors and retirees, and yet not a single new benefit from the Medicare bill. So we have one individual becoming a lobbyist, the taxpayers getting an additional bill of \$140 billion, and corporate America gets to write off more of their health care costs. Not necessarily a bad thing, but seniors have to wait until 2006 to see any benefit at all, if there is one, from this legislation.

That to me is exactly what was wrong with this bill is that we have HMOs and pharmaceutical companies getting huge dollars and huge investments of taxpayer-paid benefits, and no money, no resources towards our senior citizens.

This article talks about Delphi's benefit but Caterpillar, GM, Lucent Technologies, all with a number of their retirees who have health care plans as retirees, will now be able to accelerate the write-off on their bottom line. The Delphi article talks about them being able to accelerate a \$500 million write-off, and yet no new benefit in prescription drug benefit has been delivered to a single senior citizen.

I will say one thing. The pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and other special interests have surely gotten their money's worth out of this Congress, and so I applaud them for their hard work.

A number of my colleagues on the other side always talk about how they would like government to start emulating and working like a business. There was a bipartisan group that talked about how to make the government, and specifically prescription drugs, operate like a business, creating

in Medicare a Sam's Club entity, 41 million seniors would be pulled together, the purchasing power of the seniors. We could save hundreds of billions of dollars by negotiating bulk prices, just like Sam's Club does, just like private insurers do. But the legislation that was passed in this Congress at the behest of the pharmaceutical industry prohibits Medicare from doing what private industry does, what Sam's Club does or private insurance companies do, what even the Veterans Administration does, negotiate on behalf of who they represent, using the leverage power of a quantity of people. In this case it would be 41 million seniors.

Another way of reducing the price and delivering the prescription drugs would be allowing people to buy their drugs in Canada and Europe, again proving we pay 40 percent more here in the United States than anywhere else in the world. People are allowed to use competition in choice to buy their medications. We would have lower prices here in the United States, save our senior citizens dollars and our taxpayers dollars, but both attempts to get the government to operate like a business, to save money, to be more efficient, wring out synergies, has been prevented.

I have found in the last 2 weeks one of the most incredible news on this legislation.

First of all, I believe if we had known the true number and not been lied to or not told the truth or denied the access to the truth, and we had been told that the number was \$540 billion, the legislation never would have passed. But that information was consciously, specifically denied access in the public debate, as has been in the past for cases where the administration has refused to share information. Now we know the true number, and the taxpayers are going to be asked to pay an additional \$140 billion on top of the \$400 billion, and we do not have the money to do it. Yet we are asking them to do it, and not a single benefit.

Mr. Scully, nothing against that, has negotiated himself a wonderful contract to be a lobbyist on the prescription drug benefit, and companies like Delphi will now be eligible to accelerate and write down \$500 million on their taxes, and yet not a single benefit has been given for seniors. Everybody sat here and talked about what we were doing for seniors, and this year the prices of prescription drugs will go up 15 percent. They are projected to go up another 15 to 18 percent the following year, and we have done nothing to affect the price.

After this type of behavior in this Congress and the actions taken by this Congress, I am surprised that anybody wonders why people are cynical about politics. We have done a great job out of this institution, taking care of the special interests. Hopefully we will return and look at this legislation and once again think about how we can

save our seniors money and our taxpayers.

CORPORATE CORRUPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns about corporate corruption of the highest order, corruption towards which President Bush and his administration have been utterly indifferent.

Halliburton, the Houston-based energy company formerly led by Vice President DICK CHENEY for 5 years before the 2000 Presidential election, has been giving the shaft to the American people and our brave military personnel stationed in Iraq, and the American people know it. They also know that despite the President's attempt to talk a good game on this issue, the Bush administration will do absolutely nothing about it.

Vice President CHENEY is still on Halliburton's payroll. He received \$205,298 in 2001, \$162,392 in 2002 in deferred salary, and is expected to receive similar amounts in 2003, 2004 and 2005. He also holds 433,000 unexercised Halliburton stock options.

It is deplorable to see corporations gouge the American taxpayers under any circumstances. To watch Halliburton overcharge our government and render inadequate services to our troops in a time of war is totally unconscionable.

The issue of corporate corruption and the Bush administration's willingness to look the other way at conflicts of interest when it would benefit their friends is not a new issue for me. On March 19 of last year, the year that the war in Iraq actually commenced, I circulated a Dear Colleague letter in support of my amendment to the Defense Production Act.

My amendment was designed to ensure that senior-level executives in the Bush administration could not use a conflict with Iraq to obtain financial benefits for companies with which they had been affiliated. Specifically, the amendment would have prohibited contracts under the bill with companies in which high-ranking administration executives were senior managers or members of the board of directors within the last 4 years.

At the time, I noted that there was a considerable amount of suspicion of the motives of this administration in pursuing a war against Iraq, and I expressed my concern about the importance of avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest at a time when the administration's decisions about war and peace would be affecting so many.

My amendment failed. I offered similar amendments on several other occasions which were also unsuccessful.

Unfortunately, my concerns about Halliburton have proven to be all too

accurate. Look at what has happened in Iraq.

Halliburton was the beneficiary of no-bid contracts, which have served as the vehicle for war profiteering, such as the contracts that Kellogg Brown & Root, the Halliburton subsidiary, received to control Iraq oil well fires resulting from military action.

In the limited time available to me this evening, I want to look briefly at three issues: Halliburton's inflated oil supply contracts, the kickback scheme to which the company recently admitted, and the outrageous overcharges on its food supply contracts for our troops in Iraq.

Halliburton's inflated oil supply contracts. As my colleagues the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) have so ably demonstrated, the United States government paid the Halliburton company an average of \$2.64 a gallon to import gasoline and other fuel to Iraq from Kuwait, more than twice what others were paying to truck in Kuwait fuel. Halliburton, which has the exclusive United States contract to import fuel to Iraq, subcontracted the work to a Kuwaiti firm, government officials said, but Halliburton gets 26 cents a gallon for its overhead and fee, according to the documents from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Simply put, Halliburton was inflating gasoline prices at a great cost to American taxpayers. In October 2003, when Democrats first raised questions, it was estimated that Halliburton was charging the United States Government and Iraq's Oil for Food Program an average of about \$1.60 a gallon for fuel available for 71 cents wholesale.

A breakdown of fuel costs, contained in Army Corps documents, recently provided the Democratic congressional investigators, and shared with the New York Times late last year, showed that Halliburton is charging \$2.64 for a gallon of fuel it imports from Kuwait and \$1.24 per gallon for fuel from Turkey.

The oil price gouging is just the first of many Halliburton misdeeds that give rise to grave concern. Consider the recent allegations concerning Halliburton's food supply contracts.

Corruption. Halliburton charges for food it did not serve. The February 2, 2004, Wall Street Journal reported that, according to Pentagon investigators, "Halliburton company allegedly overcharged more than \$16 million for meals at a single U.S. military base in Kuwait during the first 7 months of last year." The revelations have "spurred an expansion of an already widening inquiry into Halliburton's government work in Iraq."

Apparently, a Saudi subcontractor, hired by the Halliburton subsidiary KBR, billed for 42,042 meals a day on average. But guess what? They only served 14,053 meals a day. The Pentagon will now review 50 other dining facilities in Kuwait and Iraq for meal-billing discrepancies.

This announcement comes just weeks after Halliburton reimbursed the Pentagon \$6.3 million after disclosing that two employees had taken substantial kickbacks from a Kuwaiti subcontractor.

I do not have time to finish all of this tonight, but there is more to come, more to come. We are going to learn more about DICK CHENEY, the Vice President of the United States, and his company ripping off the American taxpayers.

QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES DURING AND AFTER MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION PASSED THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to highlight several questionable activities during and after the Medicare prescription drug legislation passed the House of Representatives last year, and there is no doubt that this legislation, which passed here in the House after the Republican majority kept the vote open more than 3 hours in order to get the results they want, and it would be one thing, Mr. Speaker, if the result were beneficial to seniors who desperately need prescription drug coverage within the Medicare system; however, that is simply not the case.

The prescription drug legislation is a perfect example of how the Republican majority has turned the people's House of Representatives over to the special interests and the wealthy elite. Seniors should not be forced or, I should say, be fooled into believing that this Medicare legislation was written for their benefit. How could it have been considering Republicans forcing seniors to actually get the prescription drug benefits out of Medicare?

□ 2100

The bill also provides a minuscule benefit, considering that seniors with \$1,000 in annual prescription drug costs would pay \$857 out of their own pockets and those seniors with prescription drug costs of \$5,000 per year would be forced to pay \$3,920. What kind of a benefit is that if seniors are not getting the money? Where is the more than \$500 billion that now the President and the White House says that this Medicare prescription drug so-called benefit is going to cost the Federal Government? Where is the money going?

The answer, Mr. Speaker, is to the special interests. Republicans did not write this bill to help the seniors; instead, they wrote it to benefit insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies.

Now, I could talk all night about why this bill is bad and how it is not helpful

to seniors, and I think that I and my Democratic colleagues have talked many times, including last week, about the problems with this bill and why it should just be repealed. But the amazing thing about it is that now we are hearing that many of those legislators and members of the administration who benefited or who were involved in creating this bill, negotiating this bill, bringing the bill out of committee, working to put together the language of the bill, are now benefiting from leaving their jobs within the administration, or possibly within Congress, in order to join the private sector and working for those same pharmaceutical companies that they worked with when they were up on the Hill or they were in Washington working for the government to put this bill together.

In fact, many of my colleagues have been saying for months that this legislation was being written not here on Capitol Hill but instead downtown in the offices of PhRMA, which is the pharmaceutical trade association, and also written by the insurance companies. Here in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives the only true voices that matter, in my opinion, on this bill, are the special interests and the wealthy elite.

There is no better example of how the lines have been blurred between Congress writing legislation and legislation being dictated to by special interests than the latest news that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce chairman, and this is my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Republican chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), is now flirting with the possibility of leaving the House in order to lead PhRMA, that very pharmaceutical trade organization that represents those companies here in Washington. And he is one of the few House Republicans who negotiated the final prescription drug bill legislation last year.

We just heard, actually within the last few hours, that the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) announced that in fact he is going to be stepping down as chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on February 16, within the next week or so, and that he is seriously mulling going to work as the head of PhRMA.

Now, I understand, Mr. Speaker, that there is nothing wrong with Chairman TAUZIN deciding to retire and inquiring about future job opportunities. But one has to seriously question whether discussions between him and representatives of PhRMA just months after PhRMA received a cash windfall with the prescription drug legislation are appropriate. It certainly serves as a perfect example of what I was saying before of what interests Republicans represent: the special interests.

There has been no indication from Chairman TAUZIN's office that he was negotiating a job with PhRMA last

summer when he was also negotiating the prescription drug bill, and I hope that is not the case. However, the bottom line is that he was the main person in the House of Representatives responsible for this bill. And for him to now leave Congress and go seek a job with that very trade association that was benefiting from the bill, I think, is a serious ethical question and something that has to be looked into.

I see that some of my colleagues are here joining me. We are going to talk not only about this case but others, and I would yield now to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Speaker.

I think people are just outraged by what is going on in this administration and with the Republican majority in the House and Senate here. This is a bad bill to begin with, the prescription Medicare bill, the so-called Medicare reform bill, but when we add to that what can only be described as an affront or a blow to Congress' credibility, the aspect of finding the chairman, the man in charge of writing this legislation, actually closing the doors and excluding Democrats in the process, kept them out of any way of improving what turned out to be a terrible bill, ending up being offered over \$2 million, if the stories are correct, \$2 million a year from PhRMA, the organization that was out there lobbying for this bill, the organization that has over 600 lobbyists crawling around the Halls of Congress.

If the rumors are true, then it is \$2 million to the person who excluded Democrats from the process, that closed the doors, that negotiated the end of the bill, that formulated the bill that ended up giving, by some estimates, a \$139 billion boondoggle to the prescription drug companies and manufacturers by putting in a provision that says the government cannot negotiate a better price. And all of this to the detriment of our seniors.

I think people ought to be outraged. I know they are in my district. I can tell the gentleman from New Jersey that a couple from Beverly, Massachusetts, told me that they are seniors and they depend on Medicare; that the bill has to be killed, they said. Means testing, forcing them into HMOs, destroying Medicare forever was not worth the meager drug benefit they are going to get at the end of the day. Nothing was more important for them than to get rid of that bill and write another bill.

Another couple from Hamilton, Massachusetts, wrote to me. The woman said, "My husband and I are retired and our savings are rapidly declining because of prescription drug costs. To deny Americans the right to purchase legally prescribed drugs from Canada is counterproductive. We realize this bill is being driven by special interests exerting a stranglehold over this Nation's senior citizens, and that is particularly galling."

They recognize that this bill should have done something, at least about re-

importations of FDA-approved safely packaged and transported drugs; and it did nothing. Even though this House passed an independent bill instructing the FDA to do that in conference, again behind closed doors, with Democrats excluded, and with the chairman who is now said to be offered a \$2 million-a-year job by the very people who get the most benefit out of this bill, the special interests, even with that, it just gets worse and worse.

I had a pharmacist write me: "Why aren't the pharmaceutical manufacturers asked to lower their costs to participate in the program?" Pharmacies were asked. "This is one of the reasons medications are cheaper in neighboring countries." Because in neighboring countries pharmaceutical companies are required to lower their prices. "Drug companies must reduce their prices to consumers if they are going to participate in government programs."

Unfortunately for him and other constituents in my district and my colleagues' districts, this is not happening under this bill. The Medicare reform legislation is nothing more than a cruel hoax on Americans.

Let us remember back in the State of the Union address when the President brought with him a woman by the name of Elsie Blanton. He had Ms. Blanton up there in the gallery; and he said his spokespeople said, at that time of the State of the Union address, that Ms. Blanton is on Medicare, a supplemental policy that does not include prescription drug coverage. Ms. Blanton spends approximately \$900 per month on prescription drugs when unable to obtain free samples from her doctors or the pharmaceutical companies. Ms. Blanton's prescription drug costs account for three quarters of her monthly income. Her monthly income is only \$1,190 in Social Security benefits. Ms. Blanton's income is just above the 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for 2003.

Now, supposedly, Ms. Blanton was there because she was an example of someone who was to benefit from this terrible bill. But according to the Center for American Progress, Elsie Blanton will not see any assistance for years under this bill. The new prescription drug benefit does not even begin until 2006. Ms. Blanton does not qualify for the \$600 of interim assistance.

So Ms. Blanton will continue to have to spend at least three quarters of her monthly income on prescription drugs for the next 2 years. In fact, because prescription drug costs rise faster than Social Security benefits, she will probably have to spend even more of her income on her medicines. She is going to have higher costs next year. She will have to pay more for her Medicare benefits next year, because higher payments to private plans and other changes are going to cause everyone's Medicare premium to go up. And the new law also raises the Medicare deductible.

She will potentially have higher costs when the benefit does begin. She could save much less than promised once the new prescription drug benefit begins because premiums and the benefit design are largely left to private health insurers and pharmaceutical companies. It is at their discretion, the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies, that they will decide what benefits and what prescription drugs are in there. So higher premiums.

The President had assumed Ms. Blanton would be able to get a drug benefit for a premium of \$35 a month, but we know by reading the bill that, in fact, private insurers will set their own premiums, and they can be much higher than \$35 a month. The President assumed that all of Ms. Blanton's medicines would be covered under the new benefit, but in fact there is no way to know that because we know that insurance companies and the pharmaceutical manufacturers will decide what drugs are covered.

Even if the medicines Ms. Blanton needs are covered when she signs up for the plan, we know from reading the bill that that list can change at any time after she originally signs on. And if the medicines she needs are not covered, any money she spends out of her own pocket on those medicines will not count toward the benefits' out-of-pocket limit.

She will go months without assistance, even after it kicks in. With monthly drug spending of \$190 a year, assuming that all of her drugs are covered, Ms. Blanton will receive no assistance from March and through June of every year until she hits another higher limit. It is during that period of time, after March and before June, that she will be in that so-called donut hole or gap of benefits where she gets nothing at all, despite the fact that she continues to pay her premiums during that period.

What will happen to Elsie Blanton should not happen to anybody in this country, particularly on a bill of this nature. And if that is the best the people that proposed this bill have to show Ms. Blanton, who has this terrible result, then this country is in a sorry way and seniors are being deprived.

Never again should an industry be allowed to come in here and write a bill; should people that are now being offered \$2 million a year by that industry be able to shut Democrats out of the process so they cannot improve the bill and write a bill that changes what the Senate had, changes what the House had; and after a so-called conference comes out with a bill that actually does worse for seniors, has them paying more for their prescription drugs and getting less benefits. Nevermore should that happen.

If this continues to happen, and if what I heard earlier tonight, and what I think our colleague from Illinois is going to talk about, if this administration now has the audacity to take mil-

lions of dollars in taxpayer money and go out on the stump and on the TV and try to convince seniors who got a bad deal that they actually got a good deal, then we should have an investigation done and talk about the propriety of that, possibly violations of campaign laws, certainly violations of taxpayer rights, and get to the bottom of this.

This is a bad bill, done in a bad way, by people benefiting from it getting too involved and people on the floor of this House potentially having an interest now in working for those same countries that made billions of dollars of benefits. It does not sound good, it does not look good, the American people do not feel it is right, and they have every right to be concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his time.

Mr. PALLONE. Before I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois, I just wanted to highlight two things the gentleman said that I think are so important.

One is that whole thing about how there really is no set premium, set deductible, set anything really in this bill. The Republicans go out there and they say, oh, your premium is going to be \$35 a month, your deductible, I think they say, is going to be \$250 a year, the government is going to pay 75 percent of the cost, you are going to pay 25 percent. There is nothing in the bill about any of that.

I have to stop using the term Medicare prescription drug benefit when I talk about this because this is not even under Medicare. The people that are in Medicare are eligible for it, but there is no guarantee that they are going to get it. And none of these things are guaranteed. They can charge \$85 a month, they could have a \$1,000 deductible, they could, as the gentleman says, not cover certain drugs. We do not even know if it is going to be available in most areas.

So this is why they are out there talking about advertising and trying to promote this thing, because there is nothing to it. It is like an empty suit.

The other thing the gentleman pointed out, which is very special interest-oriented, is the fact there is this specific prohibition in the bill on any kind of negotiation on the price. The Medicare administrator, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, cannot negotiate lower prices.

This is an excerpt from last Sunday's New York Times where they talk about how bad the bill is and they specifically say that "the ban on government intervention with regard to negotiated price reflects the Republicans' aversion to government price controls, but it is also a testament to the lobbying clout of the drug industry, a major patron of the Republican Party." Then of course they talk about how the Democrats have tried to introduce legislation that would allow for negotiated prices.

This is the very kind of special interest we are talking about. This is what was put in by PhRMA, and now we

have the chairman of our committee that was negotiating this bill and bringing this bill on the floor and through the committee with this prohibition on any kind of price controls or negotiated prices going to work to be the chief lobbyist for PhRMA.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for just a minute, and then I will give the floor back.

While PhRMA was busy trying to contact the chairman's office to make an offer of some millions of dollars a year to work for them, the American people were having the deal cut out from underneath them. When we talk to seniors and say, look, if this is a good bill, when do you think it would start? Their answer is, immediately. This bill does not start until 2006, well after the next election. We know what that is all about.

Negotiations for lower prices? Common sense. Why do people think the pharmaceutical companies have resisted prescription drugs in Medicare all this time? Because they thought for sure the next common-sense thing would be for that large group of 37 million people to be used as bargaining leverage to get a fairer price, as the free market would dictate and is done elsewhere.

But with this majority in the House, the Republican majority in the House, the Republican majority in the Senate, and a Republican in the White House they can have it all. They can have all these new customers and clients and not have to worry about it because they got them to put in the bill that there would be no negotiation for a lower price. People can see right through that.

□ 2115

They see through the gap, the fact that there is going to be a period of time when they are paying premiums and getting nothing in return, the so-called gap or doughnut hole. To figure out whether or not this bill is good for them, they need a calculator. And when they apply this bill to their circumstances, they find out it is not a good bill for them unless they are desperately poor or have such catastrophic costs it is unbelievable.

To top it all off, about a third of today's retirees who get their health insurance and prescription coverage through their employer, the CBO assumes they are going to be dropped back to this plan and get less coverage for more cost than they did when they had their employers covering it.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are hearing that the administration is going to try to spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money to try to make a silk purse out of this cow. Again, they should not be allowed to use taxpayer money to sell them a bad deal which they know is bad and try to change their mind.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank both gentlemen for their vivid description on what is wrong with the so-called Medicare bill that passed, the nonprescription drug benefit bill that passed the House, but I want to tell Members my reaction to the chairman talking about now and very seriously looking at going to work for the pharmaceutical companies and how the Medicare administrator is going to benefit. I feel that very personally and very deeply, for this reason. This kind of breach of trust is something that really affects me because it confirms the worst nightmares of the public about what we as Members of Congress do here.

I think all too many people have this view that Members of Congress come here and they try and line their own pockets for their own benefit, working with special interests. And then what they find is the smoking gun, a guy like the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, on which the gentleman and I both sit, taking a job and saying he is going to negotiate a job with the pharmaceutical industry, PhRMA, the lobbying organization. He has announced he is going to give up his chairmanship on February 16 and not run again, and that he is looking at this offer. We know he has turned down a million dollar offer already from another organization. We have heard it is between \$2 million and \$3 million, and go to work for PhRMA, the very industry that stands now to benefit the most from this so-called senior citizen prescription drug benefit.

The good news is that the seniors get how bad this bill is. But what I fear that they do not get is that there are Members of Congress who are sincere about trying to provide a real benefit to them and think that all that we are doing here is trying to line our own pockets, trying to rig the system so it helps the pharmaceutical companies, so it helps the HMOs, and that is pretty much what they have seen.

This bill is about an estimated \$140 billion windfall for the drug companies, \$140 billion windfall for the drug companies, because it is prohibited now from trying to negotiate. Like the Veterans Administration, we do not have to look far to see where an agency negotiates for lower prices. The Veterans Administration gets for veterans sometimes half the cost that other Americans pay when they go to the pharmacy, and about half the cost we are going to have to pay for under this bill because there will be no negotiation.

The Washington Post had an editorial on January 29 that said for the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) to leave so soon afterward to work for the pharmaceutical association whose companies reaped substantial benefits from that bill provides a particularly pungent example of how quickly the "revolving door" between Congress and K Street is now revolving, and how lucrative this game has become for its participants.

The only thing I would disagree with, this is not about a revolving door, this is about a locked door. This was happening while the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) is still in the Congress and still chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. This is about a locked door where he kept out the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member on his committee, who was here when Medicare was passed in 1965, an expert on the subject, locked out of the conference committee.

I hope the public understands how extraordinary that is for the appointed members of a conference committee to be locked out of the process.

Also locked out, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means. And let us be clear, when the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) got locked out, it meant that the only possible representative of people of color in this country who have a lot at stake in this issue, were also locked out of that conference committee, which is now an all-white committee, I guess. We do not know. Who knows who they invited in from the pharmaceutical industry or the HMOs because the leading Democrats in the House of Representatives were locked out of that process.

And coming out of that locked door is, number one, a bill that is just a pay-off to the HMOs and the pharmaceutical companies; and what comes out of that committee are job offers, big job offers. So what we have is now the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) we think getting between \$2-3 million, which is actually a pretty good deal for the pharmaceutical industry which stands to gain \$140 billion. That is not too bad a deal to get a clever man like the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

They also got a guy named Tom Scully who was the Medicare administrator, the guy behind the scenes, who as a staffer helped write the bill and negotiate the whole bill. Where has Mr. Scully gone? Mr. Scully has gone to be a top health care lobbyist for the Washington firm of Alston & Bird. While serving as President Bush's director of Medicare and helping to craft the Medicare deal, Scully was actively negotiating with the lobbying firm. Recognizing the conflict of interest, the Bush administration granted Scully a special waiver to negotiate with the lobbying firm while serving in the Bush administration.

Here he is, he is with Medicare, he is the head man, he wants to look for another job, and Health and Human Services grants him a waiver while he is working on the Medicare bill to start negotiating for his next job. A waiver. Well, there was such an uproar over that, now they have said agencies cannot do that, only the White House can grant those sorts of waivers. So Scully is out the door.

Then there is the top aide on the Committee on Ways and Means, John

McManus, who was negotiating this bill as well. He left and he is going to have a job outside helping him make some money from the pharmaceutical industry. Here is what he said. "We accomplished what we set out to do. Helping people figure out how this gets implemented, that is what is interesting to me." Who are the people he is talking about that he wants to help figure it out? Is he going to help the seniors? I have not heard that he is going to go work for a senior citizen organization.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the amazing thing to me, the fact that the White House, I guess because of the public pressure, because of people speaking out about what Scully did, are now saying that the department cannot grant the waiver, but the White House can. It seems to me the goal should be that there not be any waivers at all. Under what the Bush administration is now saying, they can still grant another waiver to somebody else to negotiate a bill, and then go work for the very company that they were negotiating with. I cannot believe that they said no more waivers by the department, but we can still grant the waiver.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the words that we want to come out of their mouths is that there will not be any more waivers, and that seeking a job in the private sector, particularly with an industry that you are now regulating in a sense or making decisions about, is not right. It is not right. It smells. People know that. They do not like it. This is why the public loses faith in government, and that is why I feel so strongly about it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly why the ethics law says you cannot do it, it is wrong. So why should any waivers be granted? And there is no basis for the waiver. I asked in the case of Scully why and if there were any special circumstances, and the answer was there was nothing of that nature, they just granted the waiver.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, there are some aspects of revolving door that apply here, although I still believe that was about a locked door. These individuals were servants of the public while they are negotiating or figuring out their next move with the pharmaceutical industry. But we have got the door going the other way, too. We have a situation where an HMO lobbyist turns up as a Bush Medicare official. A woman named Julie Goon was just hired by the Bush administration. She is the former vice president of legislative affairs for an HMO trade association in Washington, and she is now the new Director of Medicare Outreach. Congress Daily reported that Goon will be in charge of "getting the word out to seniors, health care professionals, consumer groups and others about how the program works, HHS' progress in implementing it and what its impact on them will be, and for apprising the department of their reaction."

Before she got this job, Goon was named one of Washington's top lobbyists in Washington in 2002. Now she is head of explaining this Medicare bill and why it is such a great deal as Director of Medicare Outreach.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman probably remembers within the last week or two that the President announced that he was significantly increasing the reimbursement for HMOs. The reason that was given was because so many of the HMOs dropped out of Medicare, did not want to cover seniors within the Medicare program, that they needed to provide significantly more resources to the HMOs if they wanted to get them back into the Medicare program.

It is obvious that under this bill that the HMOs are going to get significantly more money in terms of reimbursement rate than traditional Medicare. Again, that is just a function of the fact that the HMO industry was basically calling the shots at the White House, and here we go again with an example of someone within the industry now working at the White House on the very program that is increasing the amount of money that the HMOs will get.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. This is not only disgusting, but it is also very costly. We know now that this bill which helps seniors little and pharmaceutical companies and HMOs a lot, is going to cost not \$400 billion but about \$540 billion. Now is that additional cost meaning that we are going to help seniors more, that we are going to provide a more generous benefit, that they are going to be able to buy their prescription drugs any cheaper? No. The reason that the cost of the Medicare bill has been reassessed is because the cost of prescription drugs are going to go up, so taxpayers are going to have to take more money out of their pocket.

□ 2130

The cost to get the HMOs to keep providing the care, because HMO costs go up every year, is going to raise the price of this bill.

The other thing that was not talked about that I think a lot of seniors do not get is that the premium can go up every year, the copayment can go up every year. So what may start out as \$35 could end up being \$85 or even more in a few years.

Mr. PALLONE. If I could just throw this in a second, in that New York Times editorial that I mentioned, they specifically say, "Less well known is the likelihood that the drug coverage will actually become worse with each passing year. The premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenditures will all increase rapidly, tied to increases in per capita drug expenditures under Medicare. By 2013, for example, the out-of-pocket spending required before a person qualifies for catastrophic coverage will probably be \$6,400, well above the \$3,000 required in the first year. That could be dev-

astating for those struggling to survive on these benefits." It is built into the bill, but it keeps going up.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It is built into the bill, but it is quite remarkable that before the ink is even dry on this bill, the price has gone up more than 25 percent, from \$400 billion to \$540 billion, and it has not even started yet. Not one dollar in benefits, so-called, has even gone out.

The seniors know that this is a bad deal. The seniors who pay more attention than anybody else already know. In polls that have asked them, they do not think that they are going to benefit sufficiently. But it is important that it be explained. This comes from today, from the Associated Press:

"The Bush administration launched a \$9.5 million television advertising campaign Tuesday to rebut criticism of the new Medicare law. Understand, this is not a political commercial paid for by a campaign. You and I and all of our constituents are paying for a \$9.5 million television advertising campaign to rebut criticism of the new Medicare law. The ad is to run on network and cable television through March, clustered around soap operas, game shows and news programs. Its theme is, 'Same Medicare, More Benefits.'"

Mr. PALLONE. Can I ask you again, you said that this is paid for by taxpayers?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. That is correct.

Mr. PALLONE. Explain that to me again?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I am reading to you this. This is not a campaign expenditure:

"The administration is spending another \$3.1 million for a newspaper, radio, and Internet effort in both English and Spanish. The 30-second ad addresses some of the major criticism of the law, including assertions that it will force seniors out of traditional Medicare and into managed care plans and that savings will be paltry from drug discount cards and prescription drug insurance starting in 2006."

Mr. PALLONE. I find that incredible. I have never heard of a situation where the government pays to rebut criticism of the program.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. This is correct. Quoting from the article:

"Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson played the commercial Tuesday for reporters. Four actors who portray Medicare beneficiaries ask how the law is changing Medicare. 'Can I keep my Medicare just how it is?' one asks. The announcer replies, 'Yes, you can always keep your same Medicare coverage.' At the end of the ad, another senior says, 'So my Medicare isn't different, it's just more?' The announcer, 'Right.'"

"Several Democratic Senators already have criticized as propaganda a two-page flyer that HHS plans to make the basis of a letter to be sent later this month to the 40 million older and disabled Americans who are enrolled in Medicare. Asked whether he had con-

sulted those Democrats about the accuracy of the ad, Thompson said, 'It's accurate.'"

Mr. PALLONE. So we now are standing here and basically pointing out why this bill does not benefit seniors, and the administration is going to spend taxpayers' money to say the opposite.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Exactly.

Mr. PALLONE. That is unheard of. I have never heard of that happening.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. This is taxpayer advertising: \$9.5 million on television; \$3.1 million for newspaper, radio and Internet; and a mailing to 40 million seniors and persons with disabilities, all at taxpayers' expense to explain why this lousy bill is, in fact, good for them.

Mr. PALLONE. There has to be some way to stop that. It sounds to me like it is blatantly illegal. But we will have to look into it. I thank the gentlewoman.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. If I can go on for just a minute, when President Bush ran for office, he said our first priority will be to restore honor and dignity to the White House. But when you look at President Bush's top official in charge of Medicare getting issued a waiver to pursue employment in the health care industry while he continues to serve as administrator of Medicare, how can we call that honor and dignity? This confirms the worst of what people think about the way government is run.

When this first happened, I along with our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), wrote a letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. A part of the letter says, "For 7 months Members of Congress who relied on Mr. Scully for information were kept in the dark about the fact that he was actively engaged in looking for employment with firms that have significant interests in the issues at stake. Financial conflicts of interest are designed to assure Members of Congress, entities with interests pending before CMS, and the public that Federal executive branch employees are independent and unbiased in their behavior. While we strongly believe that this waiver should never have been granted, at a bare minimum knowledge of it would have been valuable to us in weighing the advice provided by Mr. Scully."

This is just shameful. I think in order to restore the confidence that the American public should have in Members of Congress that we are operating in the public interest, in their interest, that when we come up with a bill, it is because it is going to help them get their prescription drugs, then we cannot allow this kind of behavior to continue. No waiver should be granted. An advertising campaign, paid for by the taxpayers, should not be allowed. If the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) takes this job with PhRMA, for 1 year he will not be able to lobby Members of Congress and staffers, but he can still lobby the executive branch,

the people that are writing all the regulations that have to do with implementing this particular piece of legislation that he crafted behind a locked door. I think that this notion of restoring honor and dignity to the White House, that is an important goal; but that goal has been undercut and betrayed by this administration and the conduct by the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentlewoman for what she has presented tonight. It is incredible to me that this advertising campaign, I just assumed that it was being paid for by the Republican National Committee, that it is actually being paid for by the taxpayers. That is unheard of. What she brought out about Scully, who was the Medicare administrator, now we have an example with TAUZIN of a Member of Congress who was the chairman of the committee that dealt with the Medicare issue and then we have the head of the Medicare administration within the White House, both of them getting jobs now, purporting, in TAUZIN's case, it seems likely, to get a job working for the very pharmaceutical industry or the law firm representing the pharmaceutical industry. It is just such a blatant example of special interests.

I know that my colleague from Ohio wants to talk about another example. We mentioned before you were on the floor on the night when this vote was taken, that actually the board was left open for almost 3 hours because there was actually a majority of both Democrats and Republicans that were against the bill. Then the President started making calls and Secretary Thompson of Health and Human Services was in a back room there, I saw him, twisting arms. We got to the point where activities were taking place which, in my opinion, were bribery that I know the gentleman wants to talk about. I appreciate his being here.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I thank my friend from New Jersey. I think the American people need to know that under this President and under the leadership of this Congress that this government is for sale. It is for sale. It is for sale to the highest bidder. The fact is that Halliburton was fined, I think, over 60-some-million dollars for overcharging for fuel that they were supplying in Iraq, and now in the New York Times today there is a story about Halliburton having overcharged for the meals they are providing to our soldiers some \$24 million. Halliburton has overcharged for the meals they are providing or should be providing or said they are providing to our troops in Iraq.

In most other circumstances, this kind of behavior would be called criminal behavior. Why would this government continue to do business with Halliburton that has been fined 60-some-million dollars and overcharges \$24

million for meals? It is almost beyond belief that we would continue to let this rogue corporation that Vice President DICK CHENEY, I understand, is still getting compensation from, from getting these contracts. What is going on with this government? When are we going to stop and say, wait a minute, this is just unacceptable for a corporation to act like this?

Mr. PALLONE. If the gentleman would yield, I was thinking about what you said today with the meals and Halliburton. I would venture to say if this were another time, say it was World War II and something like that happened, Halliburton would be out of business the next day.

Mr. STRICKLAND. They are profiteering on this war. That is what they are doing. They are profiteering on the war, and it is time the people in this country and those of us who serve in this Chamber say enough is enough. We are not going to continue to allow this rogue corporation to act in this behavior and to continue to get government contracts.

I talk to my folks back home in Ohio, especially my seniors, very frequently about this so-called Medicare bill. When I describe to them what happened in this Chamber, the people's House, they are appalled. We got that Medicare bill, as you will recall, I think it was over 800 pages long, and we received it on a Friday morning. That debate started Friday evening. We debated in this House back and forth until 3 o'clock in the morning, at a time when most Americans are asleep. At 3 o'clock in the morning, they finally called the vote, and the vote which normally lasts 15 minutes, at the end of that voting period, the bill had lost.

Most Members of this Chamber recognized that it was a bad bill, that it would not provide adequate benefits for our seniors, that there were no cost controls, that we were prohibiting cheaper drugs from being imported from Canada, that the Secretary of Health and Human Services could not negotiate discounts, and the bill had failed. And so they just kept the vote open, not for 10 minutes, not for 30 minutes, not for an hour, but for 3 hours they kept the vote open, until 6 o'clock in the morning. And the news reports indicate that they got President Bush out of bed, or woke him up about 4 o'clock in the morning, so that he could start making calls and try to twist arms and get people to change their votes. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), a Republican, a man who is retiring from this Chamber and whose son is running in a contested Republican primary to replace him, shared with a columnist, Robert Novak, that he was approached on the floor of this, the people's House, and that he was told if he would change his vote that his son would be provided about \$100,000 from certain business interests if he would change his vote.

I am not an attorney, I am a psychologist by training, but that description

sounds a lot like bribery to me; and if it is and if it happened on the floor of this House, it ought to be investigated and those responsible ought to be held accountable. But to his credit, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), as I said, who is a Republican, refused to change his vote. And then it is reported that another Republican Member approached him and said to him, "Your son is dead meat. He will never be able to serve in the House of Representatives."

□ 2145

That behavior is beneath the dignity and the honor of this, the people's House, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives ought to call for an investigation. We ought to determine if something illegal was done on this House floor, or at least something unethical or something that violated the rules of this House. And that is how that bill actually became law, because at 6 o'clock in the morning, as the sun was coming up, a couple of Members were finally persuaded to change their votes.

That is not the way to create public policy in a democracy; certainly not in the American democracy. It is shameful behavior.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman will yield, I think it is important to note that in the aftermath of that vote, some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in private conversations absolutely deplored what occurred.

I think that as colleagues of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), it is important that we commend him for his courage, and acknowledge the fact that as he leaves this Chamber, his legacy and his contribution to this institution and to the people in his district has no stain, no blemish. He can leave as a man with his dignity, pride and, I think, good wishes from all of us.

What occurred to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) I think underscores the fact that within this House there is a perversion of the democratic process that has made this particular institution so strong and such a viable component in our democracy, and it is incumbent on all of us, Republican and Democrat, to insist on transparency, to insist on fighting for the process, so that the American people understand what is going on here in Washington, so that the truth be revealed.

The gentleman was talking earlier about profiteering, and maybe the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) can inform the audience here tonight, maybe he knows, but I have a clear and vivid memory of during the debate on the \$87 billion supplemental, which was for the occupation, the additional occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan, that there was a clause in the bill which specifically addressed the issue of profiteering. It was in conference, and somehow it became deleted.

It is my memory, and you can amplify on this, that that particular provision would have increased substantially the criminal penalties for profiteering on the blood of American soldiers. I do not know if the gentleman has a comment or a memory, but I found that so shocking.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I had several members of school boards in my office today from Ohio. They were here because they are concerned about the fact that we are underfunding the No Child Left Behind legislation and passing unfunded mandates over to our States, and they told me there is an effort underway to require an audit of 12 or 13 percent of all of the school lunches that are fed to needy children in this country. Currently I think the audit requires a sample of 2 or 3 percent to be audited, but there is concern apparently that maybe we are feeding children who somehow do not deserve to be fed, so they want to increase the audit size to 12 or 13 percent.

Then I pick up the New York Times, and I read about Halliburton and the fact that they overcharged our government \$24 million, saying they had provided food to our troops that they had not in fact provided. I mean, when are we going to get real around here and go after the real culprits?

Now, I am not in favor of fraud in the school lunch program certainly, and we ought to do whatever we can to stop fraud wherever it exists, but I am a lot more concerned about Halliburton ripping off the American taxpayer than I am the fact that some needy child may be getting food that does not meet the specific criteria.

That is just an example of how our priorities are really out of kilter up here. We ought to be going after the big guys, the big offenders, those who are really ripping off the American taxpayer, whether it is Enron and the Ken Lays of this world, or it is Halliburton that has been fined, I think, \$64 million or \$65 million for overcharging for fuel that they provided in Iraq. And now we find out that Halliburton, this corporation that used to be headed by Vice President DICK CHENEY, has overcharged \$24 million for food that they should have provided to our troops.

When is this madness going to stop? When are we going to get serious about stopping this war profiteering? I am just sick. I think the American people are getting fed up with their tax dollars being used in these kinds of ways.

Mr. PALLONE. Reclaiming my time, I just want to add that I think my colleague from Massachusetts brought up the main point, which is that the problem is that Halliburton is doing all these things, now admitting, I guess, in two or maybe three cases they have done the wrong thing, but the penalty is not sufficient for them to stop doing it.

Mr. STRICKLAND. And they continue to get the contracts.

Mr. PALLONE. The oil contracts, they were charged a \$64 million pen-

alty, but they are making billions, almost a trillion dollars I think in terms of the amount of money they are taking in.

As our colleague from Massachusetts said, they are not going to stop doing it, because what do they care if they pay a few million dollar penalty when they are making billions of dollars? That is the problem. As I said before, if this had been a different time, like World War II, they would have been out of business; that would have been it. Now, twice, and it is probably going to be more. It is just unbelievable.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Why do we continue to do business with a company like this that has shown such bad faith? Sixty-four million dollars or \$65 million is a lot of money; \$24 million is a lot of money. Yet we continue to allow this company to suck up tax dollars in contracts, and it is a shameful set of circumstances.

I think the President and the Vice President ought to disassociate themselves from this company and say they are out of here. There are honest companies, there are honest corporate leaders that we can do business with. Why are we continuing to do business with Halliburton? I just cannot understand it.

Mr. PALLONE. We were talking before about the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) and the allegations that there were efforts to bribe him. We talked about it, but I do not know if we mentioned that he talked about this in his own words. I just want to read a couple of sentences.

This was from the column the gentleman mentioned in the newspaper, where he said after the vote, and this is his quote, "The House passed a deeply flawed Medicare prescription drug bill by a vote of 220 to 215 at 6 a.m. Votes in the House usually last 15 minutes plus a traditional 2-minute cushion. But because the leadership did not have the votes to prevail, this vote was held open for a record 2 hours and 51 minutes as bribes and special deals were offered to convince Members to vote yes."

This is Congressman SMITH's quote. He continued: "I was targeted by lobbyists and the congressional leadership to change my vote. Other Members and groups made offers of extensive financial campaign support and endorsements for my son Brad who is running for my seat. They also made threats about working against Brad if I voted no."

These are his own words. Just so there is no doubt here about what the gentleman said or our colleague from Massachusetts said, he is saying this himself.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I would just like to interject for a moment. I do not know if either of you had the opportunity to see a recent broadcast of 60 Minutes, but you are surely aware that U.S. law does ban virtually all commerce with rogue nations. But there is a loophole, and Halliburton has exploited that particular loophole.

The law does not apply to any foreign or offshore subsidiary, so long as it is run by non-Americans. So what has happened? In the case of Halliburton, they have an offshore subsidiary. Guess where? In the Cayman Islands. That subsidiary is doing business with Iran.

The name of that particular subsidiary is Halliburton Products and Services. It is wholly owned by the U.S.-based Halliburton and is registered in a building in the capital of the Cayman Islands. In a building owned by the local Caledonian Bank, Halliburton and other companies set up in this Caribbean island because of tax and secrecy laws that are corporate-friendly.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Can I comment on that? If I understand what the gentleman is saying, Halliburton, a company that is getting billions of dollars in contracts, is doing business through an offshore subsidiary with a nation that the President has labeled one of the "axis of evil" nations.

Mr. DELAHUNT. That is correct.

Mr. STRICKLAND. So this company is benefiting from the American taxpayer through the contracts, doing business with a country that the President stood at that platform and labeled a part of the "axis of evil." Why is this happening?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Today, again, if the 60 Minutes piece is accurate, and I presume it is, it certainly has not been challenged, and Halliburton has declined to be interviewed by them; today, today, to this member of the "axis of evil" club, it sells about \$40 million a year worth of field services to the Iranian Government so that it can obviously support its oil infrastructure to gather the needed revenue to support whatever programs, whether they be weapons of mass destruction programs, whether they be supporting terrorist organizations anywhere in the Middle East or all over the world, whatever programs the Iranian Government funds through its oil revenue.

But that, as that famous radio commentator is wont to say, is only half the story. The subsidiary, Halliburton Products and Services, and I am reading again from the transcript of this CBS piece, was registered at this address. It was in name only. There is no actual office here or anywhere else in the Cayman Islands, and there are no employees on the site.

Mr. STRICKLAND. So it is a sham.

Mr. DELAHUNT. It is a sham. And I intend this week, maybe early next week, to consult with my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary and send a letter to the Attorney General, and I think it would be appropriate to request a special prosecutor to conduct an investigation into these allegations by 60 Minutes. I would hope that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOFFEL) would support that particular letter.

I think that this is something that has to be examined by an independent

prosecutor, not an independent counsel, to again reveal the truth to the American people. Were there violations of the intent of the existing legislation that would prohibit these companies from dealing with so-called rogue nations? I think that this is absolutely essential to do, just simply out of respect for the rule of law. But also, if it is true, to demonstrate the moral deficit on the part of some and the hypocrisy on the part of some when it comes to this particular issue.

I yield back to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank my colleagues for not only raising these issues with regard to Medicare, but also with regard to Halliburton. I would certainly say to the gentleman from Massachusetts, I would be glad to join in that effort that the gentleman described tonight.

I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio and the gentleman from Massachusetts for participating in this special order tonight.

□ 2200

IRAQ WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, good evening. I am happy to be back here with my colleagues to conduct another hour of Iraq Watch. We have been meeting one day a week, one evening a week for 1 hour for about 8 months now, since the invasion of Iraq was conducted and problems became apparent; and we have been trying to raise those questions here on the floor, asking for answers, and trying to educate the American public about the problems and challenges in Iraq. Since our last time on the floor, there have been amazing developments that I would like to talk about for a few minutes before turning to my colleagues and engaging in a discussion with them.

The big news is that President Bush, at long last, has agreed to appoint an independent commission to investigate the question of weapons of mass destruction and their presence in Iraq and to try to answer the unanswered questions about the weapons of mass destruction.

Now, on behalf of Iraq Watch, all I can say is, it is about time. We have been individually and as a group calling for an independent commission to investigate the controversy surrounding weapons of mass destruction since the very beginning of the Iraq Watch 8 months ago. I know, in particular, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) never miss an opportunity to call for such a commission to be appointed; and I have lent my voice to that as well. Finally,

the President has agreed that such a commission is needed.

Well, let us take a quick review of the situation and find out why President Bush now believes it is important for an independent commission to investigate the weapons of mass destruction and the performance of his administration, because I can tell my colleagues, President Bush does not like independent commissions. I do not think he did this lightly. I think he realizes that there is a huge question here, and it is not a political question; it is a question of national security. The issues that we are raising are not designed to raise political controversy, but to deal with our national safety. These are matters of national security.

Well, we all remember that President Bush and his administration stated in the summer and fall of 2002 with complete certainty that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction and those weapons of mass destruction posed an imminent threat to America, to world peace, and to our national safety. There was not any hedging; there was not any doubt in the President's comments. There were not any hesitations or uncertainties expressed by any of the policy-makers in the Bush administration. They stated as fact that these weapons of mass destruction existed. They identified on maps where the weapons of mass destruction were located in Iraq. They even indicated how much those weapons weighed. They told us, we have 500 pounds over here; we have 300 pounds over there.

Now comes a year and a half later, Dr. David Kay, the CIA's chief weapons inspector in Iraq. And after working there for 7 or 8 months, he has announced, upon his retirement from that job, that the weapons of mass destruction do not exist and, in his opinion, did not exist during 2002 or at the time we went to war in 2003.

Now, it is, by the way, undeniable, Mr. Speaker, that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s. We know that. He used them in murderous ways against his own civilians, innocent civilians, the Kurds in Iraq. He also used them in murderous ways against the citizens in Iran, during the Iraq-Iran War. But the question is not whether he had them in the 1980s. The question is during the 1990s and the period of international sanctions and international inspections, did Hussein give up those weapons and did he have them at the time we went to war in 2003. David Kay says no. He has concluded they did not exist.

In addition to our general memory of how positive the President was, I can share with the House, as I have before, that I attended a briefing at the White House on October 2, 2002, 1 week before this House voted on the war resolution. That briefing was for a bipartisan group of Members, about 20 of us attended. It was one of several briefings the White House conducted during that time. The briefing was conducted in

the Roosevelt Room of the White House by CIA Director George Tenet and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. Ms. Rice and Mr. Tenet told us with complete certainty that weapons of mass destruction existed, that they believed Hussein was giving them to terrorists, that there was a link between Hussein and al Qaeda and, again, they knew where the weapons were. It was just a matter of invading and uncovering them and seizing them. One of my colleagues specifically asked George Tenet, Mr. Tenet, on a scale of 1 to 10, how certain are you that Saddam Hussein has reconstituted his nuclear weapons program? And Mr. Tenet answered, without hesitation, 10. He was completely certain.

Well, we now know that information was simply incorrect. In fact, we had a glimmer of the amount of exaggerations and deception when in the spring of 2003 rank-and-file Members of the House were finally allowed to see the classified intelligence reports from the fall of 2002, the Defense Intelligence Agency report of September of 2002, that said, in part, there was no credible evidence of a chemical stockpile of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and the national intelligence estimate of October of 2002 that was filled with uncertainties. That report said that we think, according to the CIA, that Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. We believe he may have this. We believe it is possible he has that. Then we discovered in the spring of 2003, when we saw these reports 6 months after they were made available to the White House that the President, when he talked to the public, forgot about all that uncertainty and told us, without a hesitation, that these weapons existed.

Well, it seems clear to me, and it has for some time, that we were led to war on half truths and deception and that America was misled and the Congress was misled by these statements regarding weapons of mass destruction.

Now, Saddam Hussein is in custody. Iraq and this country are better off with him in custody. But the fact of the matter is, our challenges in Iraq have been made much harder and much riskier because of the arrogance, the unilateralism, and the cowboy diplomacy of this administration.

Now, a few final comments about the commission, and I know my colleagues are anxious to join in this discussion. The President has finally called for an independent commission, something that all of us have called for; and we have been joined by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), who has called for an independent commission as well. There are questions remaining about how to set this up. One, of course, is who will be the members, and this will be critically important for the President to pick a bipartisan and independent group of commission members.

The timetable for reporting is important. Obviously, this commission should be given sufficient time to do

its job. I certainly hope, though, that there will not be any artificial attempt made to delay the report until after the election to protect anybody who may be embarrassed by its findings.

But most importantly of all is the scope of the commission's work. In my view, it must do two fundamental things. Certainly, it must review the accuracy of the intelligence-gathering and why our intelligence agencies were wrong about the possession and existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. But secondly, and just as importantly, this commission must review the use of that intelligence by the Bush administration to delve into why this material was so badly stated; why, when the Bush administration was told there were uncertainties about the weapons, why did they tell Congress and the American people that there was no uncertainty about the existence of those weapons. This commission must delve into both the intelligence-gathering and the use of that intelligence by the Bush administration.

Let me at this point turn now to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), who has been waiting patiently and who is a senior member of the Committee on International Relations and a leader on this issue.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the leadership he has brought to this issue.

I think it is important to remind our audience, and we are again joined by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), who is an original member of this ad hoc group that describe ourselves as the Iraq Watch, that it was 8 months ago that we began this effort. I think we are entitled to congratulate ourselves tonight. Because back then, we asked the congressional leadership and the President to depoliticize the issue of intelligence surrounding weapons of mass destruction and the allegations about links between al Qaeda and 9-11 on one side, and Saddam Hussein on the next. Obviously, our words fell on deaf ears.

But now we are in an election year, and the President thinks it is a good idea that he picks the members of this independent commission and that its proceedings be held in secrecy, so that the American people will not reach any conclusions prior to November's election.

Well, if he had heeded our advice and proceeded with an independent commission back 8 months ago, I dare say, given the work of David Kay and many others, that we would be well along the way; the American people would be informed, the administration would be informed, the House leadership would be informed, and we could be discussing these issues in a way that had no political overtones to it. But, again, it is this constant refusal to heed advice, to come in and have, if you will, a discussion on how we move forward together.

Many of us on this side of the aisle voted against the resolution because there did not appear to be a credible

case, and we were right. But now that we are there, let us go back and reexamine history. To have a historical record that is accurate is important for generations of Americans to come when this administration has enunciated a doctrine of preemption, a doctrine of preemption, and has created, in terms of the international order, a new norm that if you believe, you do not have to prove; but if you suspect, if you think, if you guess, you can launch a military strike against someone that you think may be a threat to you. I fear not just for America in terms of where we go from this point on; but situations that exist currently in the world, whether it be in the Middle East, whether it be in south Asia, between Pakistan and India, and all over the world, there are potentially volatile situations where a country can point to this Bush doctrine of preemption and launch a nuclear strike. That will have consequences for all humankind and particularly for America, and we will have set the norm. That is what disturbs me.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I do think it deserves a bit of reiteration that the Iraq Watch has been meeting some months now, and that the record is fully available, not only through the normal aspect of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which is available to the population of the United States nationwide, but it is also available, I know, on the Web site that I have set up, and I believe other Members can do the same should they wish. What I am doing now for those who are listening and have an interest, it now is on my Web site. The Iraq Watch in its entirety appears.

□ 2215

So we have a kind of cyber-archive now of what we are doing with Iraq Watch. And it will be interesting, I think, in time to come to go back over it and see where we were, where we were going. Not because we are standing here on the sidelines, merely commenting as we go along, but rather we are trying to stimulate debate, trying to stimulate discussion, trying to stimulate the body politic through the means available to us here in the House.

We are the people's house. For those who just may be tuning in now, going down the cable channels and seeing C-SPAN, what are they talking about tonight, we are talking about our sons and daughters. We are talking about the blood and treasure of the United States. We are talking about the basic values of this country. We are talking about whether we are falling into the trap of a neo-imperialism, a 21st-century version of imperialism that would be anathema to values of the United States, the United States as we have known it and as we have wanted it to be.

And in that context, I would like to read an excerpt from David Fromkin's new book called: *A Peace to End All*

Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East. Again, for those who, and I will repeat it at the end of my excerpt as well, David Fromkin's "*A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of a Modern Middle East.*"

And I am quoting:

"Churchill, when he took office as Colonial Secretary [1921], brought with him a broad strategic concept of how to hold down the Middle East inexpensively. While he was still Secretary of Air and War [1919-20], Churchill had proposed to cut Middle East costs by governing Mesopotamia," which essentially is modern-day Iraq, "by means of airplanes and armored cars. A few well-protected air bases," he wrote at the time, "would enable the Royal Air Force to operate in every part of the protectorate and to enforce control now here, now there, without the need of maintaining long lines of communication, eating up troops and money."

"Viewing imperialism as a costly drain on a society that needed to invest all of its remaining resources in rebuilding itself, the bulk of the British press, public, and Parliament agreed to let the government commit itself to a presence in the Arab Middle East only because Winston Churchill's ingenious strategy made it seem possible to control the region inexpensively."

"Thus the belief, widely shared by British officials during and after the First World War, that Britain had come to the Middle East to stay at least long enough to reshape the region in line with European political interests, ideas, and ideals, was based on the fragile assumption that Churchill's aircraft-and-armored-car strategy could hold local opposition at bay indefinitely. In turn, that assumption was another expression of the underestimation of the Middle East that had typified British policy all along. It had shown itself when [Foreign Secretary Edward] Grey disdained the offer of an Ottoman alliance in 1911; when [Prime Minister Herbert] Asquith in 1914 regarded Ottoman entry in the war as being of no great concern; and when [War Minister Horatio] Kitchener, in 1915, sent his armies to their doom against an entrenched and forewarned foe at Gallipoli in an attack the British Government knew would be suicidal if the defending troops were of European quality. Kitchener's fatal assumption being that they were not."

"In 1922 the British Government had arrived at a political compromise with British society, by the terms of which Britain could assert her mastery in the Middle East, so long as she could do so at little cost. To British officials who underestimated the difficulties Britain would encounter in governing the region, who indeed had no conception of the magnitude of what they had undertaken, that meant Britain was in the Middle East to stay. In retrospect, however, it was an early indication

that Britain was likely to leave," unquote, from David Fromkin's "A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East."

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, is the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) suggesting that there is some similarity between the behavior of the British 90 years ago and their colonial ways and the behavior of America in Iraq?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting there is a direct parallel. I am suggesting that the history of the Middle East is not something that just suddenly occurred in 1990, or 1989 and 1990, with Saddam Hussein moving into what is now Kuwait.

I suggest that there is a history here, a long history here, a detailed history here. I suggest that mistakes were made in the past as to what could and could not be done in the Middle East, particularly in the area known as Mesopotamia; in other words, modern-day Iraq. And they are well on the way to making the same mistakes over again for the same reasons that they were made before, because we think that we can impose a United States' version of a 21st-century imperialism, and that all of the cards will fall on the table in place, that everything will operate as we wish it to operate and that we can in fact control events.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, what I find particularly ironic is the debate now, whether the original preference of the United States in terms of electing the interim council would be done by caucuses or whether there would be a direct election. And it would appear that this administration is somewhat confused, but it would appear that there they are sticking to this caucus concept and rejecting the direct election proposal put forth by a leading Shia cleric by the name of Seestani for direct elections. The Iraqis, it would appear, believe that they are capable of conducting an election. And we are saying no.

Well, I believe if there is one American principle, one American value that we cherish here in this particular institution and all across this land, it is one American, one vote. How about one Iraqi, one vote, with appropriate qualifications?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, is he aware that when Ayatollah Seestani sent people into the street or encouraged people to go into the street in these demonstrations, that the cry was one man one vote?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I was unaware of that. But maybe he had done his reading in terms of American history and our fight and our struggle to secure one vote for every person regardless of color, religion, ethnicity, whatever; something that we as Americans are to be proud of in exporting.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, it is of course one man, one vote, because our governing council recently ruled

that women would no longer have the political rights that they had under Saddam Hussein. We are going to take a step backward from Saddam Hussein's government who, at least on paper, had women as the equal of men when it came to their political rights.

So if the governing council that we appointed has its way, it will retreat from that which we have struggled to achieve in the United States. You may have ethnic equality, you may have racial equality, but you are not going to have gender equality. That is for sure. They really mean it when they say one man, one vote.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, is my colleague absolutely certain of that? Because I was unaware of that. I find that incredulous.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, oh, yes, I can tell the gentleman right now, there are women's groups organizing all over Iraq at the present time, demanding that they get their rights back from the group that we are supporting which is supposedly bringing them democratic freedom.

So the plain fact of the matter is that not only is this call out in the street for direct elections, but they are, in fact, utilizing the concept of a single person and a single vote, hopefully.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield. I have enjoyed this conversation, but I would like to take just a moment and call our colleagues' attention to something that is perhaps a little more home-bound and immediate in terms of my concerns.

I think we went into Iraq based on false information that was coming from the administration. But we are there now. But I think the American people need to know that when we went to war after the Afghanistan conflict, we sent our sons and daughters into harm's way without providing them with the most basic protection. And I am talking about this interceptor body armor which is comprised of a kevlar vest with inserts where they can put ceramic plates in both the front and the back.

And these ceramic inserts are capable, we are told, of stopping an AK-47 bullet. And we sent our soldiers into Iraq into a battle, life-and-death situation, without adequate protection. Now, this is after we were told that this vest was credited with saving some 19 lives during the Afghanistan conflict. So we knew this protection was effective.

And General Abizaid, when he was testifying before a Senate committee, was asked, why did we do this? And he said, and I am quoting, "I cannot say for the record why we chose to go to war with an insufficient supply of these vests."

Well, in May I got a letter from a young soldier in Iraq, one of my constituents, a West Point graduate, an Eagle Scout, the best kind of kid that this country can produce. And he was

in Iraq and he wrote me a letter. He said, "Congressman, my men are wondering why they are not given this protection. They have been given old Vietnam-era flak jackets that are capable of stopping fragments but are incapable of stopping these bullets."

So I wrote Secretary Rumsfeld a letter. And I asked the Secretary to please tell me how many soldiers had lost their lives without this protection. I asked him to please tell me when he could assure us that all of America's soldiers were protected with these vests. And I asked him to promise me that we would not provide these vests, these life-saving vests to foreign troops until all of our soldiers had been equipped.

The Secretary wrote me back and he said that they cannot answer my first question because they do not collect that information from the battlefield. So we do not know how many soldiers have been needlessly killed simply because they were not adequately protected.

In answer to my second question, he said that it was their expectation that all soldiers would be equipped with this vest by mid-November.

A couple of weeks later I get a follow-up letter from General Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And General Myers says, in answer to my third question, "Whether or not our troops are going to be protected before foreign troops," I am paraphrasing, "our State Department has entered into certain agreements with some of our coalition partners, and we are providing certain equipment to them; but we have been assured that the companies that are producing the equipment for the foreign troops do not have a contract with our government to provide these materials for our troops, but if they were to get such a contract from our government they would honor it first."

Well, the question that I have is, if we are trying to get these soldiers protected as rapidly as possible, and there is a company that is capable of producing these vests, why do they not have a contract with our government?

Well, so General Myers then said it will be mid-November before all of our troops are protected. So Secretary Rumsfeld says November and then General Myers in his letter says December. And then, lo and behold, right before we left here for Christmas, the Pentagon had a briefing and some of my staff were there and they said, Well, it is going to be January. Think of that. Months after this war started, we had many months leading up to the war, adequate time to prepare, to develop the equipment our troops needed, and it was not done.

□ 2230

So 10, 12, 13 months after the war started they are finally telling us, and I do not know if I can brief them, quite frankly, they are finally telling us that they have, in fact, gotten a sufficient supply of these vests to our troops.

Then the vehicles that are being driven, the Humvees and other military vehicles that are being driven in Iraq, we are here in the safety of this Chamber, and we are protected by the Capitol Police; and as we stand here, there are American soldiers in Iraq in hellish circumstances, and they are driving vehicles that are not armor plated.

I received an e-mail from a soldier in Iraq this week, and he told me of being out on patrol and of one of his colleagues being shot by a sniper. The bullet went through both sides of his face and lodged in his shoulder.

We have got soldiers over there, the least we can do, the least we can do is to give them the best protection possible. And I am outraged, I am stunned that after all the billions of dollars we have allocated for this war that the leadership of this administration, our Secretary of Defense, our Pentagon officials, have failed to adequately protect our soldiers.

I have gone to funerals of soldiers who have come back from Iraq, a 20-year-old, I remember going to his funeral, a young man who was abandoned by his parents as a child, reared by his grandmother, a 20-year-old who had purchased the engagement ring for his fiancée before he left for Iraq. He simply wanted to be able to afford an education. So he joins our military hoping that that will be a route to get an education; and he comes back as a 20-year-old, and we bury him on a hill overlooking the Ohio River. Ironically, he had drowned in the Tigris River as he had jumped into that water to try to save his sergeant who had fallen in and he sunk, and it was 12 or 14 days before they found his body.

It disturbs me, it disturbs me that decisions were made to send our troops into war, and we did not provide them with the protection they need and deserve. Somebody needs to answer how that happened, why it happened; and more importantly, they need to ensure us that it will never, never, never happen again.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, to corroborate the gentleman's point, and I think it is important for my colleagues and for the people that may be watching this conversation among us tonight, that the gentleman is not speaking alone. That much of what he said was corroborated by the United States Army in a 504-page internal Army history of this war written by the Army's Combined Armed Senate at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Much of what you said is part of that particular study. That study was reported on today in the New York Times.

Let me just quote from part of that report in the New York Times: "The first official Army history of the Iraq war reveals that American forces were plagued by a morass of supply shortages, logistical problems which senior Army officials played down at the time were much worse than have been previously reported. Tank engines on warehouse shelves in Kuwait with no

truck drivers to take them north; broken down trucks were scavenged for usable parts; artillery units cannibalized parts from captured Iraqi guns to keep their Howitzers operating; Army medics foraged medical supplies from combat hospitals."

This comes from an Army report, not from a politician, whether that politician be a Republican or a Democrat, speaking at a press conference. This is the United States Army. The study goes on to note that the strategy employed by the political leadership, Secretary Rumsfeld is answerable for this, in his Deputy Under Secretary Wolfowitz, and Assistant Secretary Fife and the entire crowd. The study notes that "the strategy of starting the war before all support troops were in place taxed the post-war resources of local commanders who in many cases were shifting back and forth between combat operations and the task of civil services. Local commanders were torn between their fights and providing resources, soldiers' time and logistics, to meet civilian needs," the report concluded, "partially due to the scarce resources. As a result of the running start, there was not simply enough to do both missions."

Talk about a disaster that has resulted in untold sacrifice of American soldiers, has set us back in terms of the reconstruction of Iraq. All for what? Because we do know now, we do know now that despite, despite what the White House did say, the threat from Iraq was not imminent. Remember those words?

The White House spokesman Scott McClellan in July of this year, "Iraq was the most dangerous threat of our time." His predecessor in May of 2003 in response to a question whether the threat from Iraq was imminent, his answer, "Absolutely." Again, McClellan, the spokesperson for President Bush in February of last year said, "This is about imminent threat." The Vice President himself on January of last year, "Iraq poses terrible threats to the civilized world."

President Bush, himself, in November of 2002, "The world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq whose dictator has already used weapons of mass destruction to kill thousands."

But now, what does the White House spokesperson say? "Some in the media have chosen to use the word 'imminent.' Those were not words we used."

Give me a break, Mr. McClellan. You lose credibility by saying that. Be honest, be honest. You were wrong. Admit it and restore confidence in America and in the White House, not just for the benefit of the American people, but for the benefit of American prestige in our role in this world to enhance democracy in every corner of the planet.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for Mr. McClellan or anyone else to do that when the President himself in the space of the last week or so has indicated at least twice

that he did not know the facts, that he was anxious to find out what the facts were, that he too, presumably meaning "in addition" would like to find out what was going on or what had happened.

Now, this is the President of the United States. Hundreds of people are dead, thousands of people have been grievously wounded.

Speaking of the prestige that the gentleman referred to, that has been literally destroyed the world over. We now have the Secretary, the spectacle, the spectacle of the Secretary of the State now wondering whether or not he would have made the same recommendations had he had other information, at the same time when many of us here were saying, let us take a deep breath, let us be sure we know what we are doing. The inspections are working; the inspections were under-way.

We were not getting the information back that the administration wanted to hear. That is the difficulty. My memory is not in such difficult straits that I cannot recall what happened during those times. I realize we are now at a point that would understand only too well where inconvenient thought is shoved down the memory hole. We simply put it out of sight and pretend it did not happen. The plain fact of the matter is that there were cries all across this country, an outcry all across the country saying that the inspection process has not yet completed its task. We need to do that at a minimum before we go to war.

It is one thing for people to talk about supporting the troops. It is one thing to talk about whether the definition of imminent is the same for everybody across the spectrum, but you cannot say that a political policy which has failed to do the minimum necessary before there is a commitment to war is something that needs to be defended in the name of defending the troops.

Mr. McClellan or the President, neither Mr. McClellan speaking for the President nor Mr. Bush can get off that easy, nor can they claim that this is a situation that needs now to be explored in the aftermath of this tragedy.

I submit that we are now in a situation that needs further explanation. My understanding now is that we have announced that we are going to be leaving on the 30th of June of this year. We are now in February. March, April, June. We are talking about in 100 days we are ostensibly going to turn over authority to somebody or something in Iraq. Is there anybody here who can tell me who is going to have authority, what institutional framework or structure is going to exercise that authority? I cannot find out who it is.

Is it going to be United Nations inspectors? No, they have been told they were inadequate. Is it going to be United Nations observers or administrators in some form? They left. I understand that the United States now in

some fashion is in discussions with them as to whether they will come back in. To do what? With whom?

It is very interesting, one need only go to this issue of the New York Times Magazine for February 1, this past Sunday, and this article on what the Shiites really want. A quote from a U.S. official, "We can fight the Sunnis, but we cannot fight the Shiites, not if they organize against us. There are too many of them."

Is that what we have been reduced to? Is that what the policies are involved here? If you want to talk about imminent danger, how about the imminent danger of people demanding direct elections so that they can conduct their own affairs.

This is the situation that we find ourselves in today. This is the situation that we have to confront. This is a situation that will not allow us to continue to merely stand on the side and observe the President trying to get the facts. He should have had the facts before he committed us into war. And he should get the facts now on what it takes in order for us to be able to exert such influence as we can in a positive way now that we have entered into this imperialist dream of imposing our authority on Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's capture.

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the questions of the gentleman, but I hope he is not turning to me to give him some answers because I cannot begin to answer these very legitimate questions he has raised about what comes next, what does the Bush administration think will happen at the end of June when we turn over civil authority at this point to a completely unknown local or international or some form of alternative government or group. These questions are important, and we are nowhere close to having an answer.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Does the gentleman know what the CIA says?

Mr. HOFFFEL. I am afraid to ask.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Back about a week ago in the Miami Herald this is what the CIA said in response to a question posed by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

□ 2245

They said in the Miami Herald, in a commentary on the President's State of the Union address, which would lead one to believe that things were fine and that peace and order and democracy were just around the corner, well, the CIA offices in Iraq, in the field, are warning that the country may be on a path to civil war. And they are very, very concerned and very, very disturbed.

Again, it is all about just be honest. The American people can deal with the truth. We can have a debate that is respectful. We can address problems and we can move forward together, but if you do not tell us the truth, that is when we are in trouble.

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Massachu-

setts (Mr. DELAHUNT) on that point. That is an excellent point, and part of the problem we are having is that the President and the Vice President continue to spin the issue of weapons of mass destruction. The Vice President in the last couple of weeks still talks about those trailers being the place where weapons of mass destruction were being manufactured. David Kay laughs about that and says, no, they were not.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Everybody laughs about it.

Mr. HOFFFEL. They were perhaps making rocket fuel. More likely, making helium for weather balloons, but they were not making weapons of mass destruction. But the Vice President continues to suggest that that was happening.

The President himself in the State of the Union address that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) just referenced, in the face of the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, in my view, continued to try to confuse the situation and fool the American people by talking about the fact that Mr. Kay himself, who was in the process of saying there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the President quoted Mr. Kay as talking about weapons of mass destruction-related program activities. And I do not have a clue what is a weapons of mass destruction-related program activity.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Neither does any other American have a clue. You talk about gibberish.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. If the gentleman would yield, I think I can provide you with an answer of what a weapons of mass destruction-related program activity was.

Mr. HOFFFEL. At last, an answer.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I will be happy to do so. What we have discovered, we said if we can only get to those Iraqi scientists, they have the answer, which was just what was going to happen with the U.N. inspectors. What did we find out when we got to those scientists? The scientists told us that they were destroying the weapons of mass destruction and that the program activity was destroying the weapons of mass destruction. That is what the activity was, and these scientists were doing it, and they had papers to show it. If we could just get to the papers of those Iraqi scientists, that would tell us what happened. Yes, they destroyed the weapons of mass destruction.

What Saddam Hussein was doing, a ruthless lying dictator, was ruthlessly lying about what he was doing. He wanted to give the illusion that there were these weapons, because he wanted to give the illusion that he was some great and powerful dictator, and we were buying it. That is the problem here is that we are actually relying on the veracity of a lying, ruthless dictator.

Maybe part of the reason for that is we have been relying on his goodwill

all along anyway. If I have to hear one more time about weapons that were used on his own people, I would like to ask the President, was that before or after the Secretary of Defense in another capacity was congratulating him for it and getting his picture taken with him and shaking his hands? Was that before or after this country was giving approval to Saddam Hussein to use those weapons and making certain that he knew that that was not going to interfere with our support, tacit or otherwise, for his war against Iran?

So, yes, there were program activities all right, program activities that we needed to know about in detail so that we could present an accurate and truthful picture to the American people.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can, we certainly know the gentleman is absolutely correct. If we want to talk about weapons of mass destruction program-related activities, let us go back to that point in time when the current Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was the National Security Adviser and when the current Vice President, Mr. CHENEY, was the Secretary of Defense.

What I find particularly fascinating is, as Dr. Condoleezza Rice just said, if I can find the quote, she said just recently, he used weapons of mass destruction, just as the gentleman indicates. The truth was that we were transferring to him the computers and the ingredients necessary to advance his nuclear weapons program. That happened.

We, the United States Government, during the 1980s under Reagan and President George Herbert Walker Bush, were removing him from the terrorist list, installing an embassy in Baghdad, providing intelligence to Saddam Hussein in the war against Iran. And when it came to that horrific incident in Chalabi where he used chemical weapons against the Kurds who had aligned themselves with the Iranians, there was a condemnation, let us call it lip service. And yet, when this institution, this House and the United States Senate in 1989 and 1990 attempted to impose sanctions on the Saddam Hussein regime, you know what the position of the administration was then, led by the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Adviser? They killed the bill. They killed the bill.

Now, if hypocrisy was a virtue—

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. We would be up to our eyeballs in it.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you.

Mr. HOFFFEL. Let me respond or add on to the comments of the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) about the Iraqi scientist, because Dr. Kay has also reported on what he believes may explain part of the incredible inaccuracy of our intelligence work regarding the weapons of mass destruction. He believes that some of those Iraqi scientists that you referred to were actually conning Hussein; that they were telling Hussein that they had had these programs; they needed

more money; they were on the verge of developing the weapons that this murderous dictator was interested in developing. Hussein apparently believed that con, and kept giving them money for their research and for their development, and some of that money was skimmed off the top through base corruption by these scientists and all the rest.

What is amazing is the suggestion from Dr. Kay that our intelligence agencies fell for the con, too. We were conned by the con. We picked up the communications of the Iraqi scientists to Hussein, and we believed those communications, and so that is why we felt that the weapons of mass destruction were well developed and in existence when, in fact, they were not.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, having been a probation officer at one time in my checkered career, I can tell my colleagues a little bit about con men and how they operate. I will tell you how a con succeeds. A con succeeds not because of the special insight of the one perpetrating the con. The person who does that, the con man, is not depending on the desire of the other person to have the conclusion that they want to have come out. It is preordained they want the con. You cannot succeed with a con unless the other person is playing into it with you. They think they are getting something for nothing, or they think that something they want very much to be real is actually going to happen. You are going to win; you are going to succeed; you are going to be able to work the angle; you are going to be able to get something that somebody else does not have.

All you have to do is look at the record of the desire of the advisers to Mr. Bush and their determination to reenter the Middle East along the same lines as I read from the Churchill imperial era, and to come back into with their version in the 21st century, they want those weapons to be there. They wanted to take any scrap of information that came in and turn it into proof positive that what they wanted to do and the policies they wanted to follow of going in there and having a war with Iraq was something that was substantiated by the information that they were getting. It did not matter that it may have gone the other way. It did not matter it was ambiguous, tenuous, or that it was fragments.

What mattered was, is something was being said about it, and they were bound and determined to turn that into information which could be construed as being supportive of having to go to war. No matter what happened, they were going to go to war.

I find it very, very instructive that the Secretary of the Treasury's book that has just come out has been denounced along with him. He apparently has turned into an apostate, too, in the process simply by saying that these impressions and his honest impression

as related in his book was that from the moment he entered service to the Bush administration, that they were determined to go to war; that no matter what happened they were going to go to war.

So as we take a look at this and see what happened in the past, that, it seems to me, is prelude to the future. And so I suggest for our upcoming Iraq Watches that we take up the question, then, of what is going to happen on June 30; who are we going to be dealing with; what are the circumstances under which authority is to be turned over in Iraq by the United States; is this going to be yet another election ploy? Because the Bush administration is trying to use support for troops being synonymous with support for the war for election year purposes now, and I am very anxious to find out whether this transfer of authority is also going to be used for election purposes or are we going to actually be able to do something that will advance democracy in Iraq. I think we need to concentrate on that.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is interesting the gentleman talked about the former Secretary of the Treasury, and I think we all respect his candor and honesty, and I think for many of us it certainly is not surprising. I think probably, and I do not know whether our audience is aware of this, but one starts to see a subtle change in the position of some members of the administration.

For example, Secretary Powell was reported yesterday in the Washington Post, he said he does not know now whether he would have recommended an invasion of Iraq if he had been told it had no stockpiles of banned weapons, even as he offered a broad defense of the Bush administration's decision to go to war.

What we are going to start to see now is a shift in the language. We are going to go from clearly there were weapons of mass destruction, this is where they are, these are the quantities, and that is going to go to the weapons of mass destruction program-related activities. Now we are going to see attempts by senior administration officials to rewrite history. But I think what is most important from this point on is for those that are in denial, because they have I think almost a psychological hold in terms of their belief, we should ask them to accept reality. Let us move on, let us work together in a bipartisan, bicameral basis and to go forward, understand where we failed in terms of this policy, and see that at least the Iraqi people have an opportunity for a democratic future, and as quickly as possible reduce the exposure of American military personnel and the absolutely heavy burden that the American taxpayers are bearing, with no help from anybody else in the world.

□ 2300

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. And none likely to come.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And none to come. Remember that conference in Madrid? That was all about loans. Our allies are loaning, expecting the money back; but American taxpayers, we give it away. We give it away in this body. That is what we do. We just shove it out the door. Well, that is indeed unfortunate.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining in Iraq Watch this week. We will be back next week. We are going to look at the commission and what happens June 30th, and we look forward to talking next week.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the prior speakers were dealing with the foreign wars in which the United States is engaged, here at home the Bush administration has built an economy teetering on a house of cards, or should I say an exploding house of debt.

There is more economic anxiety in our country than at any time that I can remember since the Reagan recession of 1982. President Bush is trying to act as if nothing is wrong, but people know better. They know something is wrong, something deeply wrong with America's economy here at home. They know that jobs are going overseas by the thousands, and they do not know how much worse things are going to get before they get better, or if they are ever going to get better.

More and more people are wondering whether our jobs are ever going to come back. In my district, almost every week brings the news of another plant closing. This week it is Georgia Pacific, maker of Dixie Cups, leaving Sandusky, Ohio, and 206 long-time workers terminated. Hundreds and hundreds of family-owned tool and die and machine tool businesses in Ohio and the Midwest have fallen victims of unregulated competition from China.

The manufacturing sector in the Nation's heartland is in the intensive care unit, and President Bush is offering Band-aids. He was in Ohio last week, he came to us empty-handed, but then he went around the country and raised millions more for his campaign coffers. In his State of the Union address delivered here, he did not even propose extending unemployment benefits for those workers who have lost their jobs.

There is great economic anxiety in our land because workers do not know how much longer they can hold on to their health benefits. There is great economic anxiety in our land because people see Congress and the President giving \$87 billion to Iraq and the President's corporate cronies, but leaving 43 million Americans without health care coverage.

There is great economic anxiety because the average American family

lives by a rule that Washington breaks every day. It is called the rule of balancing your checkbook. If a family bounces a check, their bank hits them with a fee for insufficient funds. But apparently that does not apply to President George Bush and his Republican Party. They have proposed the biggest budget deficits in history and call it economic progress.

President Bush has proposed a back-breaking \$521 billion budget deficit for this year. And when we add in the Social Security funds that they are borrowing, it is actually \$709 billion. Next year, his deficit is proposed at \$364 billion, but it is actually \$607 billion if he does not raid the Social Security fund. And if he is as wrong this time as he has been in his fiscal projections in the first 3 years, the budget deficit for fiscal year 2005 will hit over \$734 billion.

That is the highest deficit in history, and that does not even count the additional funds that they are going to add for the war in Afghanistan. We seem to have a President who talks a lot about national security, but has forgotten about economic security.

I can remember, coming from our family, what happened back in the 1920s and 1930s when Washington spent with abandon. We know that Wall Street likes debt, but they like it too much, and they deal in paper wealth, not real wealth. And when our predecessors during the 1920s and 1930s forgot the difference between real wealth and paper, and spent with abandon, they literally brought down America's families and financial system right around them. The dollar lost its value, and we face that precipice again.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was the largest economic disaster our Nation ever experienced. Our family, like everyone else in the Nation, felt the impact of wild behavior on Wall Street and reckless government in Washington. Our family lost all their meager savings, and I am sure that the irresponsible people who have raided our people's 401(k) plans have done the same thing in this modern day. Just ask the former employees of Enron. And I do not mean George Bush's close personal friend, Kenneth Lay. I mean the people who lost everything when the Lay scam was exposed.

A look at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the largest hole in history. It is supposed to ensure our

workers' pension benefits in private companies. It is over \$11 billion in deficit. The President says it is not a crisis. It surely is a crisis when the largest instrumentality that we have to back up our workers' retiree benefits does not have the insurance to do it. He best pay attention.

Mr. Speaker, the economic anxiety that is gripping America tonight is real. We are losing jobs to unfair trade agreements. The President wants to expand NAFTA. Workers are running out of unemployment benefits. The President says there is no crisis and, therefore, no need for extended unemployment benefits. Retirees are losing their pensions, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation is losing money hand over fist. The President says there is no crisis, but indeed the system is at risk.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say to the American people the way to change our Nation for the better is for people to register to vote from coast to coast. If we can change the captain of our floundering Ship of State, we can put firm new leadership at the helm and begin moving again toward a better tomorrow for all.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BORDALLO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

Mr. LANGEVIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and February 4 on account of attending a memorial service.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and February 4 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and February 4 on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. RAHALL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of February 2 and the week of February 9 on account of surgery.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. SOLIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GILCHREST) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, February 4 and 5.

Mr. PEARCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILCHREST, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, February 4 and 10.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, February 4.

Mr. FEENEY, for 5 minutes, February 4.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1879. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 2004, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2003, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. JOEL MONTALVO, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 25 AND NOV. 28, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Joel Montalvo	11/25	11/28	Jordan	674.00	952.00	674.00	952.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. JOEL MONTALVO, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 25 AND NOV. 28, 2003—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Committee total				674.00	952.00					674.00	952.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOEL MONTALVO, Dec. 4, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KUWAIT, IRAQ AND SPAIN, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 21 AND OCT. 26, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Deborah Pryce	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Darlene Hooley	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Jennifer Dunn	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Sue Kelly	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Carolyn McCarthy (NY)	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Katherine Harris	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Juan Carlos Scott	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Margaret Peterlin	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Anne Buresh	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Adrienne Ross	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Alison Craig	10/22	10/25	Kuwait ³		1,167.00		(⁴)				1,167.00
Hon. Deborah Pryce	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Darlene Hooley	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Jennifer Dunn	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Sue Kelly	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Carolyn McCarthy (NY)	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Hon. Katherine Harris	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Juan Carlos Scott	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Margaret Peterlin	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Anne Buresh	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Adrienne Ross	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Alison Craig	10/25	10/26	Spain		343.00		(⁴)				343.00
Committee total					1,510.00						1,510.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Traveled from Kuwait into and out of Iraq each day.⁴ Military air transportation.

DEBORAH PRYCE, Nov. 24, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ITALY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 22 AND OCT. 24, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bryan Harbin ³	10/22	10/24	Italy	530.02		90		48.35	668.35	832.00	
Committee Total			530.02		90		48.35		668.35		832.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Bryan received 715.52 Euro and had 50 Euro leftover and returned.

BRYAN HARBIN, Nov. 18, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MEXICO, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 22 AND OCT. 24, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Hon. David Hobson	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Hon. Sam Farr	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Hon. Hilda Solis	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Hon. Linda Sanchez	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Michael Sheehy	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Kenny Kraft	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Cindy Jimenez	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Dean Aguilan	10/22	10/24	Mexico	9213	830.00		(³)			9213	830.00
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

NANCY PELOSI, Nov. 24, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE HOUSE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 26 AND OCT. 28, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Doug Bereuter	10/26	10/28	Canada		526.00		(³)				526.00
Hon. John Tanner	10/26	10/28	Canada		526.00		(³)				526.00
Hon. Paul Gillmor	10/26	10/28	Canada		526.00		(³)				526.00
Hon. Joel Hefley	10/26	10/28	Canada		526.00		(³)				526.00
John Lis	10/26	10/28	Canada		526.00		(³)				526.00
Committee total					2,630.00						2,630.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

DOUG BEREUTER, Dec. 8, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CUBA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED ON DEC. 9, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mark Foley	12/9	12/9	Cuba				(³)				
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

MARK FOLEY, Jan. 13, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 24 AND AUG. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bernard Jay Apperson	8/25	8/26	Turkey		462.00		6,269.40				6,731.40
	8/27	8/28	Uzbekistan		566.00						566.00
	8/29	8/31	Turkey		452.00						452.00
Bobby Vassar	8/25	8/26	Turkey		462.00		6,269.40				6,731.40
	8/27	8/28	Uzbekistan		566.00						566.00
	8/29	8/31	Turkey		452.00						452.00
Committee total					2,960.00		12,538.80				15,498.80

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JAMES F. SENSENBRENNER, JR., Chairman, Nov. 13, 2003.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6524. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-187] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6525. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bayou Boeuf, Miles 90-93 of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, West of the Harvey Locks, Amelia, LA [COTP Morgan City-03-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6526. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-189] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6527. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-191] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6528. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Elizabeth River, Virginia. [CGD05-03-192] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6529. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atchafalaya River, Morgan City, LA [COTP Morgan City-03-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6530. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-193] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6531. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone;

Atchafalaya River, Eugene Island Sea Buoy to MM 119.8, Berwick, LA [COTP Morgan City-03-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6532. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Marker 11.8 to Mile Marker 12.2, Pittsburgh, PA [COTP Pittsburgh-03-023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6533. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware Bay and River [CGD05-03-194] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6534. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Monongahela River Mile Marker 0.0 to Mile Marker 0.3, Pittsburgh, PA [COTP Pittsburgh-03-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6535. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Captain

6564. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone;

Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-159] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6565. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia [CGD05-03-212] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6566. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Captain of the Port Wilmington zone. [CGD05-03-161] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6567. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; One Billion Dollar Party, Chicago, IL [CGD09-03-250] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6568. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Elizabeth River, VA. [CGD05-03-162] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6569. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Captain of the Port Detroit Zone, Renaissance Center [CGD09-03-279] (RIN: 2115-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6570. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Magnificent Mile Festival of Lights, Chicago, IL [CGD09-03-281] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6571. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Elizabeth River, VA. [CGD05-03-163] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6572. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety and Security Zone, Motor Vessel BOTHNIABORG, Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, New York [CGD09-03-283] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6573. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Elizabeth River, VA. [CGD05-03-164] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6574. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; 2003 Odyssey Holiday Cruise, Chicago, IL [CGD09-03-286] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6575. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Connection Slough, Stockton CA [CGD11-03-007] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6576. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone Regulations, Motor Vessels USNS SISLER (T-AKR 311) and USNS SHUGHART (T-AKR 295), Blair Waterway, Commencement Bay, Puget Sound, Washington [CGD13-03-037] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6577. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones: Columbia River Yacht Club Salvage Operation [CGD13-03-038] (RIN: 2115-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6578. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone Regulations, Motor Vessel, WESTWARD VENTURE, Sitcum Waterway, Commencement Bay, Puget Sound, Washington [CGD13-03-039] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6579. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 03-025] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6580. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, and Carquinez Strait, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 03-028] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6581. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-165] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6582. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Bay, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 03-031] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6583. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-03-157] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6584. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bogue Sound, NC [CGD05-03-166] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6585. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-03-174] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6586. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia. [CGD05-03-169] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6587. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Charleston Harbor Christmas Parade of Boats, Charleston, SC. [COTP Charleston 03-169] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6588. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-03-175] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6589. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Mile Marker 539, Ingleside, TX [COTP Corpus Christi-03-007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6590. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bogue Sound, NC [COTP Wilmington 03-151] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6591. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Port Aransas, TX [COTP Corpus Christi-03-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6592. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bar Harbor, ME, M/V ACADIA CLIPPER Salvage [CGD01-03-109] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6593. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Centerport Yacht Club Fireworks, Huntington, NY [CGD01-03-112] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6594. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Spa Creek, Annapolis, MD [CGD05-03-132] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6595. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Johns River, MM 161.1, Volusia County, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-146] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6596. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Virginia [CGD05-03-154] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6597. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Jacksonville, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-149] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6598. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, Norfolk, VA [CGD05-03-155] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6599. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; York River, West Point, Virginia [CGD05-03-157] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6600. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Daytona Beach, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-156] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6601. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; York River, West Point, Virginia [CGD05-03-157] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6602. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Johns River, MM 161.1, Volusia County, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-161] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6603. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, Elizabeth River, VA [CGD05-03-158] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6604. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Eustis, Eustis, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-162] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6605. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Johns River, Jacksonville, Florida [COTP Jacksonville 03-163] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6606. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; West Lake Tohopekaliga, Kissimmee, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-164] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6607. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Eustis, Eustis, FL [COTP Jacksonville 03-170] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6608. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Water ski races Long Beach, CA [COTP Los Angeles-Long Beach 03-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6609. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Miles 602.0 to 606.0, Louisville, KY [COTP Louisville-03-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6610. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Miles 602.5 to 606.0, Louisville, KY [COTP Louisville-03-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6611. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 600.0 to 604.0, Rose-dale, MS [COTP Memphis-03-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6612. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 790.0 to 794.0, Osceola, AR [COTP Memphis-03-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6613. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 772.0 to 775.0, Osceola, AR [COTP Memphis-03-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6614. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Columbus Day Regatta, Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida [COTP Miami 03-150] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6615. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Moving Security Zone, M/V FIRST LADY, Port of Miami, Miami, FL [COTP Miami 03-158] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6616. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Boca Raton, Florida [COTP Miami 03-160] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6617. A letter from the Administrator, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting a copy of the "Federal Aviation Administration and National Air Traffic Controllers Association Collective Bargaining Impasse Submission to Congress," pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 40122(a); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 412. Resolution honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary (Rept. 108-409). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 56. Resolution supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II (Rept. 108-410). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 3095. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to make sure the rules of etiquette for flying the flag of the United States do not preclude the flying of flags at half mast when ordered by city and local officials; with an amendment (Rept. 108-411). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mrs. MYRICK: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 513. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements (Rept. 108-412). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOSS: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. House Resolution 499. Resolution requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President and those officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame, adversely; (Rept. 108-413 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. Everything Secret Degenerates: The FBI's Use of Murderers as Informants (Rept. 108-414). Referred to the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on January 31, 2004]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. S. 523 was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following actions occurred on January 31, 2004]

H.R. 180. Referral to the Committee on Rules extended for a period ending not later than June 1, 2004.

H.R. 1081. Referral to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Resources, and House Administration extended for a period ending not later than April 2, 2004.

H.R. 1856. Referral to the Committees on Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than April 2, 2004.

H.R. 2120. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than March 2, 2004.

H.R. 2802. Referral to the Committee on Government Reform extended for a period ending not later than March 2, 2004.

H.R. 3358. Referral to the Committee on the Budget extended for a period ending not later than June 1, 2004.

S. 1233. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than March 2, 2004.

[Submitted February 3, 2004]

House Resolution 499. Referral to the Committees on Armed Services, International Relations, and the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than February 27, 2004.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. HALL, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. LAMPSON):

H.R. 3752. A bill to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. HOFFEL (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GREENWOOD, and Mr. HOLDEN):

H.R. 3753. A bill to provide for the restoration of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 3754. A bill to provide additional civil and criminal remedies for domain name fraud; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. NEY, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RENZI, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 3755. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to insure zero-downpayment mortgages for one-unit residences; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3756. A bill to establish a National Commission on Digestive Diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina):

H.R. 3757. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to permit States to carry out surface transportation program projects on local roads to address safety concerns; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 3758. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for an influenza vaccine awareness campaign, ensure a sufficient influenza vaccine supply, and prepare for an influenza pandemic or epidemic, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 3759. A bill to require a study on transforming America by reforming the Federal tax code through elimination of all Federal taxes on individuals and corporations and replacing the Federal tax code with a transaction fee-based system; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OTTER (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 3760. A bill to extinguish the reverendary interests and use restrictions relating to industrial use purposes for certain deeds in Nez Perce County, Idaho; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CASE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. HEFLEY, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 3761. A bill to establish the Program Reform Commission to review unnecessary Federal programs and make recommendations for termination, modification, or retention of such programs, and to state the sense of the Congress that the Congress should promptly consider legislation that would make the changes in law necessary to implement the recommendations; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CASE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. HEFLEY, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 3762. A bill to establish the Corporate Subsidy Reform Commission to review inequitable Federal subsidies and make recommendations for termination, modification, or retention of such subsidies, and to state the sense of the Congress that the Congress should promptly consider legislation that would make the changes in law necessary to implement the recommendations; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTLE:

H. Con. Res. 355. Concurrent resolution congratulating the University of Delaware men's football team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association I-AA national championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. CARDIN):

H. Con. Res. 356. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that rates of compensation for civilian employees of the United States should be adjusted at the same time, and in the same proportion, as are rates of compensation for members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H. Res. 510. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to free trade negotiations that could adversely impact the sugar industry of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WATSON (for herself, Mr. COX, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. WATERS):

H. Res. 511. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the University of Southern California's football, women's volleyball, and men's water polo teams; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BASS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H. Res. 512. A resolution congratulating the New England Patriots for winning Super Bowl XXXVIII; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MCINTYRE (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H. Res. 514. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 36: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.

H.R. 111: Mr. BURNS.

H.R. 331: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 391: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 432: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 466: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 527: Mr. GILLMOR.
 H.R. 584: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. BURR.
 H.R. 717: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 847: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 857: Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 891: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 976: Mr. VITTER.
 H.R. 1102: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 1117: Mr. PENCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAYES.
 H.R. 1118: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1125: Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 1155: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
 H.R. 1160: Mr. NETHERCUTT.
 H.R. 1179: Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 1227: Mr. COX, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. COLE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1231: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1267: Mr. PASCARELL.
 H.R. 1285: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 1294: Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 1321: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 1323: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
 H.R. 1336: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. BLUNT.
 H.R. 1400: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 1478: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA.
 H.R. 1513: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GOODE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. BURR.
 H.R. 1534: Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 1563: Mr. ENGEL, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, and Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 1615: Mr. GREENWOOD.
 H.R. 1653: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
 H.R. 1657: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H.R. 1684: Mr. WYNN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DELAULO, and Mr. BALLANCE.
 H.R. 1726: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
 H.R. 1749: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 1818: Mr. BOEHLERT and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 1849: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 1930: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. OLVER.
 H.R. 2011: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 2037: Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri and Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 2071: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2131: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GREENWOOD, Ms. HART, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. HULSHOF, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MICA, Mr. PITTS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NEY, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REGULA, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. COLE, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JOHN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HILL, Mr. WATT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DICKS, Mr. MOORE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr.

DOOLEY of California, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. FORD, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. GOODE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HALL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WU, and Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 2262: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 2394: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2582: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H.R. 2665: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 2671: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HARRIS.
 H.R. 2768: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BELL, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. KIRK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CANNON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. OTTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GUTKNECHT, and Mr. OLVER.
 H.R. 2797: Mr. ISAKSON.
 H.R. 2823: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. SPRATT.
 H.R. 2853: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 2863: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. ENGLISH.
 H.R. 2885: Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 2959: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2969: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 2983: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 2997: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 3042: Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 3069: Mr. MANZULLO.
 H.R. 3075: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 3090: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 3178: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 3180: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 3192: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 3238: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
 H.R. 3242: Mr. BACA and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 3244: Mr. WATT and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 3246: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 3281: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
 H.R. 3310: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. DEMINT.
 H.R. 3350: Mr. EMANUEL.
 H.R. 3352: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
 H.R. 3377: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 3386: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
 H.R. 3424: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 3425: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 3444: Mr. FILNER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3453: Mr. GINGREY.
 H.R. 3460: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. WEINER.
 H.R. 3473: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. RENZI, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 3474: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 3480: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 3484: Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 3507: Mr. FILNER and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 3509: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3528: Mr. WEINER, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 3550: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BACA, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 3582: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 3619: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 3658: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. BURNS.
 H.R. 3662: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 3667: Mr. GIBBONS.
 H.R. 3687: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 3704: Mr. DEMINT.
 H.R. 3707: Mr. FILNER, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SABO, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. STARK, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. TURNER of Texas.
 H.R. 3708: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. FALCOMA-VAEGA.
 H.R. 3713: Mr. HYDE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. WELLER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 3717: Mr. FORBES, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. HAYES, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. TIAHRT, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. LINDER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 3719: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SABO, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BELL, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 3728: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. DELAHUNT.
 H.R. 3731: Ms. HART, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FARR, Mr. FROST, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HILL, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 3745: Mr. EHLERS.
 H.J. Res. 84: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. HALL, Mr. REGULA, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.J. Res. 87: Mr. OBEY, Mr. WATSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. REYES, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FORD, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LEE, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
 H. Con. Res. 111: Mr. PAYNE.
 H. Con. Res. 218: Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. STEARNS.
 H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
 H. Con. Res. 254: Mr. HOLT.

H. Con. Res. 310: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. HOSTETTLER.

H. Con. Res. 324: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Con. Res. 327: Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SANDERS.

H. Con. Res. 332: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MAJETTE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BASS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SAXTON.

H. Con. Res. 343: Mr. WU, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. PELOSI.

H. Res. 157: Mr. WEINER and Mr. LEACH.

H. Res. 241: Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 291: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. SABO.

H. Res. 402: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H. Res. 480: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri.

H. Res. 481: Mr. NEY.

H. Res. 482: Mrs. NORTHUP.

H. Res. 500: Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. OSBORNE.

H. Res. 507: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BONNER, Mr. FROST, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. PORTER.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 3030

OFFERED BY: MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT No. 1: Page 12, after line 22, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

(j) **NONDISCRIMINATION.**—Section 678F(c)(1) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9918(c)(1)) is amended by inserting "religion," after "color,".

(k) **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.**—Section 679(b) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9920(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

H.R. 3030

OFFERED BY: MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT No. 2: Page 12, after line 22, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

"(j) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS; VOLUNTARINESS.**—Section 679(c) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9920(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"If the religious organization offers such an activity, it shall be voluntary for the individuals receiving services and offered separate from the program funded under subsection (a). A certificate shall be separately signed by religious organizations, and filed with the government agency that disburses the funds, certifying that the organization is aware of and will comply with this subsection."

H.R. 3030

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 3: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving the Community Services Block Grant Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) **PURPOSES AND GOALS.**—Section 672 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 672 PURPOSES AND GOALS.

"The purpose of this subtitle is to reduce poverty—

"(1) by strengthening and coordinating local efforts to expand opportunities for individuals and families to become economically self-sufficient and to improve and revitalize low-income communities in urban and rural areas, by providing resources to States for support of local eligible entities, including community action agencies and other community-based organizations—

"(A) to plan, coordinate, and mobilize a broad range of Federal, State, local, and private assistance or investment in such a manner as to use these resources effectively to reduce poverty and in initiatives that are responsive to specific local needs and conditions;

"(B) to coordinate a range of services that meet the needs of low-income families and individuals, that support strong and healthy families, and that assist them in developing the skills needed to become self sustaining while ensuring that these services are provided effectively and efficiently; and

"(C) to design and implement comprehensive approaches to assist eligible individuals in gaining employment and achieving economic self-sufficiency;

"(2) by improving and revitalizing the low-income communities in urban and rural areas by providing resources to States for support of local eligible entities and their partners—

"(A) to broaden the resource base of initiatives and projects directed to the elimination of poverty and the redevelopment of the low-income community, including partnerships with nongovernmental and governmental institutions to develop the community assets and services that reduce poverty, such as—

"(i) other private, religious, charitable, and community-based organizations;

"(ii) individual citizens, and business, labor, and professional groups, that are able to influence the quantity and quality of opportunities and services for the poor; and

"(iii) local government leadership; and

"(B) to coordinate community-wide resources and services that will have a significant, measurable impact on the causes of poverty in the community and that will help families and individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to test innovative, community-based approaches to attacking the causes and effects of poverty and of community breakdown, including—

"(i) innovative initiatives to prevent and reverse loss of investment, jobs, public services, and infrastructure in low- and moderate-income communities; and

"(ii) innovative partnerships to leverage the assets and services that reduce poverty, as provided in subparagraph (A); and

"(3) by ensuring maximum participation of residents of low-income communities and of members of the groups served by grants made under this subtitle in guiding the eligible entities and in their programs funded under this subtitle, to ameliorate the particular problems and needs of low-income residents and to develop the permanent social and economic assets of the low-income community in order to reduce the incidence of poverty."

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 673(1)(A) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in clause (ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) that successfully develops and meets the locally determined goals described in section 678E(b)(1), as determined by the State, and meets State goals, standards, and performance requirements as provided for in section 678B(a)."

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 674 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9903) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking "678F" and inserting "678E to assist States, eligible entities, and their partners in projects supported by this subtitle"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking "monitoring (to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities)" and inserting "monitoring (including technical assistance and training to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities)".

(d) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Section 675C of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by striking "Beginning on October 1, 2000, a" and inserting "A"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(F) by striking "neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based".

(e) **APPLICATION AND PLAN.**—Section 676 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "Beginning with fiscal year 2000, to" and inserting "To";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "youth development programs that support" and inserting "youth development programs, which may include mentoring programs, that support"; and

(II) by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by adding "and" at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) initiatives to improve economic conditions and mobilize new resources in rural areas to eliminate obstacles to the self-sufficiency of families and individuals in rural communities;"

(C) in paragraph (2) by striking "community and neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based";

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "information provided by eligible entities in the State, containing" and inserting "an assurance that the State will provide information, including"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking "community and neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based";

(E) in paragraph (9) by striking "and community organizations" and inserting "and community-based organizations";

(F) in paragraph (10) by striking "community organization" and inserting "community-based organization";

(G) in paragraph (12) by striking "and" at the end;

(H) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (15); and

(I) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

"(13) an assurance that the State will take swift action to improve performance or,

when appropriate, to terminate the funding under this subtitle of low-performing eligible entities that do not meet the applicable locally determined goals described in section 678E(b)(1) or do not meet the State goals, standards, and requirements as provided for in section 678B(a);

“(14) an assurance that the State will provide a justification to the Secretary if it continues to fund persistently low-performing eligible entities; and”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “plan, or” and all that follows through the period at the end, and inserting “plan, to meet a State requirement, as described in section 678C(a), or to meet the locally determined goals as described in section 678E(b)(1).”; and

(3) by striking subsection (f).

(f) TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Section 678A(a)(1)(A) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9913(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “dissemination regarding best practices,” after “technical assistance.”; and

(2) by inserting “(including to assist in the development of reporting systems and electronic data systems)” after “collection activities”.

(g) MONITORING OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section 678B of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9914) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “and the locally determined performance goals described in section 678E(b)(1)” after “a State”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “appropriate” before “goals”; and

(ii) by striking “established by the State”; and

(2) in the last sentence of subsection (c) by striking “Chairperson of the Committee on Education” and all that follows through “Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate congressional committees”.

(h) CORRECTIVE ACTION; TERMINATION AND REDUCTION OF FUNDING.—Section 678C(a) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9915(a)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “established by the State”.

(i) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 678E of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “By October 1, 2001, each” and inserting “Each”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the 1st sentence by inserting “including any activities under section 678C” before the period at the end;

(ii) by striking the 2d sentence;

(iii) in the 3d sentence by striking “also”; and

(iv) in the 3d sentence by inserting “information on the timeliness of the distribution of block grant funds to eligible entities as provided in section 675C(a),” after “including”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “beginning after September 30, 1999”;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking “Committee on Education” and all that follows through “Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate congressional committees”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) COORDINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the Secretary shall coordinate reporting re-

quirements for all programs of the Department of Health and Human Services managed by eligible entities so as to consolidate and reduce the number of reports required about individuals, families, and uses of grant funds.”; and

(D) by redesignating such subsection as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) LOCALLY DETERMINED GOALS.—In order to be designated as an eligible entity and to receive a grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall establish locally determined goals for reducing poverty in the community, including goals for—

“(A) leveraging and mobilizing community resources;

“(B) fostering coordination of Federal, State, local, private, and other assistance; and

“(C) promoting community involvement.

“(2) DEMONSTRATION THAT GOALS WERE MET.—In order for an eligible entity to receive a second or subsequent grant made under this subtitle after the effective date of this paragraph, such entity shall demonstrate to the State that it has met the goals described in paragraph (1).”

(j) NONDISCRIMINATION.—Section 678F(c)(1) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9918(c)(1)) is amended by inserting “religion,” after “color.”

(k) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—Section 679 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9920) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 679. OPERATIONAL RULE.

“(a) RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED AS NONGOVERNMENTAL PROVIDERS.—For any program carried out by the Federal Government, or by a State or local government under this subtitle, the government shall consider, on the same basis as other nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations to provide the assistance under the program, so long as the program is implemented in a manner consistent with the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under this subtitle shall discriminate against an organization that provides assistance under, or applies to provide assistance under, this subtitle, on the basis that the organization has a religious character.

“(b) RELIGIOUS CHARACTER AND INDEPENDENCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A religious organization that provides assistance under a program described in subsection (a) shall retain its religious character and control over the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs.

“(2) ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS.—Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government shall require a religious organization—

“(A) to alter its form of internal governance, except (for purposes of administration of the community services block grant program) as provided in section 676B; or

“(B) to remove religious art, icons, scripture, or other symbols;

in order to be eligible to provide assistance under a program described in subsection (a).

“(c) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—No funds provided directly to a religious organization to provide assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be expended for sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization.

“(d) FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any religious organization

providing assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be subject to the same regulations as other nongovernmental organizations to account in accord with generally accepted accounting principles for the use of such funds provided under such program.

“(2) LIMITED AUDIT.—Such organization shall segregate government funds provided under such program into a separate account. Only the government funds shall be subject to audit by the government.

“(e) TREATMENT OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND OTHER INTERMEDIATE ORGANIZATIONS.—If an eligible entity or other organization (referred to in this subsection as an “intermediate organization”), acting under a contract, or grant or other agreement, with the Federal Government or a State or local government, is given the authority under the contract or agreement to select nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance under the programs described in subsection (a), the intermediate organization shall have the same duties under this section as the government.

“(f) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—In providing assistance under a program described in subsection (a), a religious organization shall not discriminate against a beneficiary, or a potential beneficiary, of such assistance on the basis of religion or of a religious belief.

“(g) OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, each entity that carries out a program, or provides assistance, under this subtitle shall carry out such program, or shall provide such assistance, in a lawful and secular manner.”

(l) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9921) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “(including financial assistance for construction or substantial rehabilitation of buildings and facilities, and for loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations)” after “assistance”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) FEDERAL INTEREST.—The Secretary shall establish procedures that permit funds provided under a grant made under this paragraph, or intangible assets acquired with such funds, to become the sole property of the grantee before the expiration of the 12-year period beginning after the fiscal year for which such grant is made if such grantee agrees to use such funds or such property for purposes and uses consistent with the purposes and uses for which such grant is made.

“(C) REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to allow a grant made under this paragraph to be used by a grantee to carry out activities substantially similar to the activities for which such grant is made if, due to no fault of such grantee, such grantee cannot carry out the activities for which such grant is made. Such procedures shall require that the substantially similar activities serve the same impact area and have the same goals, objectives, and outcomes as the activities for which such grant is made.”

(B) in paragraph (3)(B) by inserting “water and wastewater” after “community”; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking “neighborhood-based” and inserting “community-based”; and

(2) in subsection (c) by striking “Chairperson of the Committee on Education” and

all that follows through "Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees".

(m) **COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**—Section 681 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9922) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "Committee on Education" and all that follows through "Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees"; and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009".

(n) **NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-INCOME YOUTH.**—Section 682 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5)—

(A) by inserting "(which may be accomplished through mentoring)" after "youth"; and

(B) by inserting "to improve academic achievement" after "study practices"; and

(2) in subsection (g) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 3030

OFFERED BY: MS. WOOLSEY

AMENDMENT No. 4: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving the Community Services Block Grant Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) **PURPOSES AND GOALS.**—Section 672 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 672 PURPOSES AND GOALS.

"The purpose of this subtitle is to reduce poverty—

"(1) by strengthening and coordinating local efforts to expand opportunities for individuals and families to become economically self-sufficient and to improve and revitalize low-income communities in urban and rural areas, by providing resources to States for support of local eligible entities, including community action agencies and other community-based organizations—

"(A) to plan, coordinate, and mobilize a broad range of Federal, State, local, and private assistance or investment in such a manner as to use these resources effectively to reduce poverty and in initiatives that are responsive to specific local needs and conditions;

"(B) to coordinate a range of services that meet the needs of low-income families and individuals, that support strong and healthy families, and that assist them in developing the skills needed to become self sustaining while ensuring that these services are provided effectively and efficiently; and

"(C) to design and implement comprehensive approaches to assist eligible individuals in gaining employment and achieving economic self-sufficiency;

"(2) by improving and revitalizing the low-income communities in urban and rural areas by providing resources to States for support of local eligible entities and their partners—

"(A) to broaden the resource base of initiatives and projects directed to the elimi-

nation of poverty and the redevelopment of the low-income community, including partnerships with nongovernmental and governmental institutions to develop the community assets and services that reduce poverty, such as—

"(i) other private, religious, charitable, and community-based organizations;

"(ii) individual citizens, and business, labor, and professional groups, that are able to influence the quantity and quality of opportunities and services for the poor; and

"(iii) local government leadership; and

"(B) to coordinate community-wide resources and services that will have a significant, measurable impact on the causes of poverty in the community and that will help families and individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to test innovative, community-based approaches to attacking the causes and effects of poverty and of community breakdown, including—

"(i) innovative initiatives to prevent and reverse loss of investment, jobs, public services, and infrastructure in low- and moderate-income communities; and

"(ii) innovative partnerships to leverage the assets and services that reduce poverty, as provided in subparagraph (A); and

"(3) by ensuring maximum participation of residents of low-income communities and of members of the groups served by grants made under this subtitle in guiding the eligible entities and in their programs funded under this subtitle, to ameliorate the particular problems and needs of low-income residents and to develop the permanent social and economic assets of the low-income community in order to reduce the incidence of poverty.".

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 673(1)(A) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in clause (ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) that successfully develops and meets the locally determined goals described in section 678E(b)(1), as determined by the State, and meets State goals, standards, and performance requirements as provided for in section 678B(a)."

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 674 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9903) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking "678F" and inserting "678E to assist States, eligible entities, and their partners in projects supported by this subtitle"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking "monitoring (to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities)" and inserting "monitoring (including technical assistance and training to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities)".

(d) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Section 675C of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by striking "Beginning on October 1, 2000, a" and inserting "A"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(F) by striking "neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based".

(e) **APPLICATION AND PLAN.**—Section 676 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "Beginning with fiscal year 2000, to" and inserting "To";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "youth development programs that support" and inserting "youth development programs, which may include mentoring programs, that support"; and

(II) by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by adding "and" at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) initiatives to improve economic conditions and mobilize new resources in rural areas to eliminate obstacles to the self-sufficiency of families and individuals in rural communities";

(C) in paragraph (2) by striking "community and neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based";

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "information provided by eligible entities in the State, containing" and inserting "an assurance that the State will provide information, including"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking "community and neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based";

(E) in paragraph (9) by striking "and community organizations" and inserting "and community-based organizations";

(F) in paragraph (10) by striking "community organization" and inserting "community-based organization";

(G) in paragraph (12) by striking "and" at the end;

(H) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (15); and

(I) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

"(13) an assurance that the State will take swift action to improve performance or, when appropriate, to terminate the funding under this subtitle of low-performing eligible entities that do not meet the applicable locally determined goals described in section 678E(b)(1) or do not meet the State goals, standards, and requirements as provided for in section 678B(a);

"(14) an assurance that the State will provide a justification to the Secretary if it continues to fund persistently low-performing eligible entities; and";

(2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking "plan, or" and all that follows through the period at the end, and inserting "plan, to meet a State requirement, as described in section 678C(a), or to meet the locally determined goals as described in section 678E(b)(1)."; and

(3) by striking subsection (f).

(f) **TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—Section 678A(a)(1)(A) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9913(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "dissemination regarding best practices," after "technical assistance,"; and

(2) by inserting "(including to assist in the development of reporting systems and electronic data systems)" after "collection activities".

(g) **MONITORING OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Section 678B of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9914) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting "and the locally determined performance goals described in section 678E(b)(1)" after "a State"; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting "appropriate" before "goals"; and

(ii) by striking "established by the State"; and

(2) in the last sentence of subsection (c) by striking "Chairperson of the Committee on Education" and all that follows through

"Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees".

(h) **CORRECTIVE ACTION; TERMINATION AND REDUCTION OF FUNDING.**—Section 678C(a) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9915(a)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "established by the State".

(i) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 678E of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking "By October 1, 2001, each" and inserting "Each"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the 1st sentence by inserting "including any activities under section 678C" before the period at the end;

(ii) by striking the 2d sentence;

(iii) in the 3d sentence by striking "also"; and

(iv) in the 3d sentence by inserting "information on the timeliness of the distribution of block grant funds to eligible entities as provided in section 675C(a)," after "including";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "beginning after September 30, 1999";

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking "Committee on Education" and all that follows through "Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees";

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) **COORDINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—To the maximum extent possible, the Secretary shall coordinate reporting requirements for all programs of the Department of Health and Human Services managed by eligible entities so as to consolidate and reduce the number of reports required about individuals, families, and uses of grant funds."; and

(D) by redesignating such subsection as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) **LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

"(1) **LOCALLY DETERMINED GOALS.**—In order to be designated as an eligible entity and to receive a grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall establish locally determined goals for reducing poverty in the community, including goals for—

"(A) leveraging and mobilizing community resources;

"(B) fostering coordination of Federal, State, local, private, and other assistance; and

"(C) promoting community involvement.

"(2) **DEMONSTRATION THAT GOALS WERE MET.**—In order for an eligible entity to receive a second or subsequent grant made under this subtitle after the effective date of this paragraph, such entity shall demonstrate to the State that it has met the goals described in paragraph (1)."

(j) **NONDISCRIMINATION.**—Section 678F(c)(1) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9918(c)(1)) is amended by inserting "religion," after "color,".

(k) **TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.**—Section 679 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9920) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 679. OPERATIONAL RULE.

"(a) **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED AS NONGOVERNMENTAL PROVIDERS.**—For any program carried out by the Federal Government, or by a State or local government under this subtitle, the government shall

consider, on the same basis as other nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations to provide the assistance under the program, so long as the program is implemented in a manner consistent with the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under this subtitle shall discriminate against an organization that provides assistance under, or applies to provide assistance under, this subtitle, on the basis that the organization has a religious character.

"(b) **RELIGIOUS CHARACTER AND INDEPENDENCE.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A religious organization that provides assistance under a program described in subsection (a) shall retain its religious character and control over the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs.

"(2) **ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS.**—Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government shall require a religious organization—

"(A) to alter its form of internal governance, except (for purposes of administration of the community services block grant program) as provided in section 676B; or

"(B) to remove religious art, icons, scripture, or other symbols;

in order to be eligible to provide assistance under a program described in subsection (a).

"(c) **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**—No funds provided directly to a religious organization to provide assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be expended for sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization.

"(d) **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any religious organization providing assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be subject to the same regulations as other nongovernmental organizations to account in accord with generally accepted accounting principles for the use of such funds provided under such program.

"(2) **LIMITED AUDIT.**—Such organization shall segregate government funds provided under such program into a separate account. Only the government funds shall be subject to audit by the government.

"(e) **TREATMENT OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND OTHER INTERMEDIATE ORGANIZATIONS.**—If an eligible entity or other organization (referred to in this subsection as an "intermediate organization"), acting under a contract, or grant or other agreement, with the Federal Government or a State or local government, is given the authority under the contract or agreement to select nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance under the programs described in subsection (a), the intermediate organization shall have the same duties under this section as the government.

"(f) **TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.**—In providing assistance under a program described in subsection (a), a religious organization shall not discriminate against a beneficiary, or a potential beneficiary, of such assistance on the basis of religion or of a religious belief.

"(g) **OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, each entity that carries out a program, or provides assistance, under this subtitle shall carry out such program, or shall provide such assistance, in a lawful and secular manner.".

(l) **DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9921) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by inserting "(including financial assistance for construction or substantial rehabilitation of buildings and facilities, and for loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations)" after "assistance";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) **FEDERAL INTEREST.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures that permit funds provided under a grant made under this paragraph, or intangible assets acquired with such funds, to become the sole property of the grantee before the expiration of the 12-year period beginning after the fiscal year for which such grant is made if such grantee agrees to use such funds or such property for purposes and uses consistent with the purposes and uses for which such grant is made.

"(C) **REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures to allow a grant made under this paragraph to be used by a grantee to carry out activities substantially similar to the activities for which such grant is made if, due to no fault of such grantee, such grantee cannot carry out the activities for which such grant is made. Such procedures shall require that the substantially similar activities serve the same impact area and have the same goals, objectives, and outcomes as the activities for which such grant is made.";

(B) in paragraph (3)(B) by inserting "water and wastewater" after "community"; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking "neighborhood-based" and inserting "community-based"; and

(2) in subsection (c) by striking "Chairperson of the Committee on Education" and all that follows through "Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees".

(m) **COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**—Section 681 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9922) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "Committee on Education" and all that follows through "Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "appropriate congressional committees"; and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009".

(n) **NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-INCOME YOUTH.**—Section 682 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5)—

(A) by inserting "(which may be accomplished through mentoring)" after "youth"; and

(B) by inserting "to improve academic achievement" after "study practices"; and

(2) in subsection (g) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 3030

OFFERED BY: MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 5, strike lines 20 and 21, and insert the following:

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "1999 through 2003" and inserting "2004 through 2009"; and

(B) by striking “681” and inserting “675C(b)(3), 681,”;

Page 6, line 2, strike “and” at the end.

Page 6, line 8, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 6, after line 8, insert the following:

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ASSISTANCE RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2004 to carry out section 675C(b)(3).”.

Page 6, strike lines 9 through 14, and insert the following:

(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 675C of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by striking “Beginning on October 1, 2000, a” and inserting “A”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(F) by striking “neighborhood-based” and inserting “community-based”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ASSISTANCE RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT.—With the amount appropriated under

section 674(c), the Secretary shall make grants to States to provide financial and employment support to individuals who cannot find employment, who have exhausted their State unemployment benefits, and who, after the week of December 20, 2003, can no longer receive Federal extended temporary unemployment compensation. The eligibility criteria and benefit amounts under this paragraph for such individuals shall be the same as for such individuals prior to December 20, 2003, under the Federal extended temporary unemployment compensation program.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1) by inserting “paragraphs (1) and (2) of” after “under”.